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Region's Countries React to Panamanian Elections

Group of Eight Comments

PA1105153989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0220 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 10 May (DPA)—The Group of Eight today rejected any kind of meddling in Panama's internal affairs in view of U.S. threats of possible military action against that country because of serious disturbances stemming from controversial elections held 7 May.

A press communique released tonight by the Mexican Foreign Ministry states that the foreign ministers of the group, which comprises Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, and Venezuela—Panama is under suspension—will abstain from issuing judgments about the causes that could have led to attacks against opposition demonstrators, attacks in which presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and his two vice presidential candidates were injured and at least two people killed.

Endara, candidate of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, described the 7 May elections as fraudulent and proclaimed himself president, although official figures indicate Panamanian military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega's candidate is the winner.

The Group of Eight foreign ministers also expressed dismay over the Panamanian Government's policy, which seems to be further drifting away from the Latin American community at a moment when the region is experiencing an unprecedented democratization process.

In the communique, the Group of Eight underscores the validity of the Panama Canal treaties, which is the product of the self-determination of that country's people. According to those treaties, the United States must abandon the canal area before the year 2000.

Rio Group Expresses 'Dismay'

PA1105192689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1802 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] New York, 11 May (AFP)—Panama's isolation at the United Nations increased today when the Rio Group—which includes Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela—decided to express to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar their "dismay over a situation in which the Panamanian Government may move away from the Latin American democratic community."

The Uruguayan ambassador, acting secretary of the Rio Group, will deliver to Perez de Cuellar in the next few hours a document approved by the foreign ministers of the seven Latin American countries to be distributed to all members of the United Nations as a Security Council document, a diplomatic source said.

The document states that at the Acapulco summit, the presidents of the eight member countries of the group—formerly including Panama, which is now suspended—had agreed to carry out actions to contribute "to the defense, strengthening, and consolidation of all democratic institutions."

The foreign ministers also stress the need to respect "the principles of self-determination and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries," and they expressed their dismay over of the situation in Panama "at a historic moment in which the free expression of the people is making unprecedented progress in our region."

The Rio Group countries also reiterate their commitment to continue defending "nonintervention, self-determination, the democratic commitments made in Acapulco, and the continued observance of the Panama Canal treaties."

A reliable diplomatic source told AFP that besides the release of this document, which is a rejection of any threat of intervention as well as a call to respect the will of the Panamanian people as expressed in the polls, the seven Latin American countries have not planned any other initiative at the United Nations, although they are closely following the developments.

Governments Want OAS To Meet

PA1105191789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1818 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 May (EFE)—The governments of Latin American countries called today for an OAS meeting at the foreign ministers' level on 15 May to analyze Panama's internal political situation.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry reported that the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela have "expressed their serious concern over the absence of guarantees during the elections in Panama."

In an official communique, the Foreign Ministry said there was "evident manipulation of the results of the 7 May Panamanian elections."

OAS To Hold Meeting

PA1105215389 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2143 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Washington, 11 May (REUTER)—The OAS announced today that it will hold a special meeting tomorrow to discuss the crisis in Panama.

The organization announced that Venezuela had requested an urgent meeting of the OAS Permanent Council to get council members to approve a special meeting of the region's foreign ministers.

Roundup of Regional Reaction

PA1205005189

[Editorial report] The following is a roundup of Latin American reaction as of 11 May, as expressed through regional media, to the 7 May Panamanian elections and the immediate aftermath.

The majority of Latin American media which have been observed to comment on the 7 May Panamanian elections have expressed concern over the situation in Panama but have also warned against foreign intervention in Panama's internal affairs. With the notable exception of Cuban and Nicaraguan media, most regional media have also reported concern over alleged irregularities during the Panamanian election process that favored the pro-regime National Liberation Coalition (COLINA).

Central America

Costa Rican media carried a government communique and statements by government leaders urging respect for the "Panamanian people's will." San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish on 11 May broadcast a report on a Costa Rican Government communique that states "Costa Rica cannot remain silent in view of the mockery that has been made of the Panamanian people's will." According to the report, the communique notes "the Panamanian people have been betrayed" and adds that "the Costa Rican Government has announced it will promote—on the strength of its long history of freedom and peace—a struggle by all democratic countries in America and the world to ensure that the Panamanian people's will be respected." The report adds that the acting foreign minister says the new Costa Rican ambassador to Panama "will not be sent to Panama until the situation in that neighboring country is resolved." Hamburg DPA in Spanish on 10 May carried a report on a written statement by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias in which Arias is quoted as saying "The Costa Rican Government hopes that the official election results in Panama will faithfully reflect the electorate's sovereign decision, and it hopes that democracy will definitely and irreversibly be established in that country." Similarly, in a recorded statement broadcast by San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish on 9 May, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto notes that "the elections cannot simply be a sham to cover up the will of the people and to do what the Army commander wants."

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish on 9 May broadcasts an excerpt of an interview with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta during which Acevedo states that "we emphatically condemn any attempt at fraud by the present Panamanian Government." San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish on 9 May carries statements by President Jose Napoleon Duarte during which Duarte expresses the hope that Panamanians "will have the opportunity to freely choose their rulers" but notes that "there are still people who want to impose their will by force instead of by reason."

The clandestine Salvadoran rebel radio station, Radio Venceremos, on 9 May carried a report on the Panamanian elections, commenting that "the United States must respect whomever is elected." On 10 May, however, a Venceremos report claims that opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara "is Bush's candidate" and that in Panama a battle is under way between nationalists and "the lackeys of the United States represented by Endara."

On 11 May, Guatemala City Teleonce Television notes that the National Congress issued a resolution praising the Panamanian people and urging the authorities "to respect the people's will." Prior to the elections, Panama City ACAN in Spanish on 2 May reported that President Vinicio Cerezo had circulated a letter "that will be signed" by the Central American presidents "in which we ask General Manuel Antonio Noriega to respect the elections and guarantee a free election process." The report adds that Cerezo advised that "only Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has not signed the letter."

The Tegucigalpa newspaper, LA TRIBUNA, on 11 May published a 10 May Honduran Foreign Ministry communique expressing the hope that "the results of the elections in Panama will be a clear manifestation of the Panamanian people's will." In general, Honduran media gave priority treatment to the Panamanian elections, including a San Pedro Sula TIEMPO report headlined "Honduran Observers Witnessed the Fraud in Panama." Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish in a 9 May editorial noted that "even Pinochet...accepted the results of the balloting and conceded he had lost at the polls. Noriega, however, believes in bullets, not votes."

Nicaraguan media, except for opposition Radio Catolica and Radio Corporacion, have claimed "U.S. plans for aggression" against Panama, accusing the United States of intervention in Panamanian domestic affairs. A Foreign Ministry communique broadcast on Panama City Domestic Service on 10 May called upon "all Latin American peoples not to be the instruments of the United States in the creation of a Latin American bloc that would approve open U.S. interference." The communique notes that "even before the Panamanian elections were held, the Bush administration had begun a campaign to discredit the elections... to turn the United States into a judge of the election process in our region." Managua BARRICADA on 7 May carries an editorial that states that "the battle Panama is waging today is a prelude to what will happen in Nicaragua on 25 February (1990)."

Panama City CRITICA on 11 May publishes a letter from Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge to the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPAL) that condemns U.S. "arrogance" and states that "accepting such arrogance would be condemning the countries in the region to the harshest

intervention in their domestic affairs." Thus, the letter calls upon COPPAL to "reject interventionist actions on issues that only the Panamanian people have the right to judge and comment on."

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 7 May published a report of a news conference given by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega during which Ortega asked the Nicaraguan people "to actively show their solidarity in view of the difficult times in Panama." In addition, Managua Domestic Service in Spanish on 10 May reported that Commander Bayardo Arce, a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's National Directorate, stated that the Sandinist People's Army "continues to be in a state of maximum alert in view of the threat of an intervention in Panama by the U.S. Army." Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network also cited President Daniel Ortega in the FRG as saying that the United States must act with "more political maturity" regarding Panama and adding that an invasion would "trigger Latin American solidarity" and "cause a setback in the Central American peace process."

Nicaraguan opposition Radio Catolica and Radio Corporacion have both been observed to carry straight reports on the elections, citing charges of regime fraud and subsequent violence in Panama City. Radio Catolica on 10 May carried a telephone report from Panama City describing ongoing civil disturbances. During the report, the correspondent states that "everyone knows that ADOC (Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance) won three to one, but that the government insists on proclaiming the government candidates victorious." For its part, the Nicaraguan Resistance issued a communique aired over San Jose Radio Impacto on 11 May to "Vice President-elect" Ricardo Arias Calderon conveying the RN's "clearest signs of solidarity."

Cuba

Cuban media have also accused the United States of interference in Panama and warned of possible U.S. military intervention. Although initially reporting the "unquestionable" victory of proregime presidential candidate Carlos Duque Jaen, a report broadcast by Havana Radio Rebelde Network on 11 May cited Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca as saying in Madrid that "it is clear...that interference has occurred, especially on the part of the United States, which has designated $100 million to influence the results of the Panamanian electoral process." He also "warned" that "U.S. military intervention in Panama would be a big blunder with explosive consequences for the entire region." Havana media also carried several other reports denouncing U.S. plans of intervention. In one report, Havana Radio Progreso Network on 11 May noted that a Foreign Ministry declaration was issued warning of the "grave consequences on all of Latin America and on U.S.-Latin American relations that would result from the inevitable reaction to a U.S. military intervention in Panama."

Mexico

As of 11 May, Mexican media have not been observed to carry official government reaction to the 7 May Panamanian elections. In reporting on a trip to Spain by Mexican senators, however, Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television on 10 May cited the senators as saying that "Mexico rejects foreign interference in our continent, and there is no reason to modify this postion regarding Panama."

South America

Prior to the Panamanian elections, Madrid EFE on 6 May reported statements by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in which he said that "the Panamanian elections do not meet the basic conditions to ensure a clean result." Following the elections, Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish broadcast a communique by the "Executive Branch" of the Venezuelan Government expressing "deep concern" over developments in Panama and "solidarity with the legitimate election results." Caracas television on 11 May reported that the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies was debating the Panama situation with some deputies expressing support for legitimate election results and others warning of U.S. intervention and exploitation of the situation.

On 11 May, Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish carried a report saying the Colombian Government today "deplored the latest events in Panama, especially the annulment of the electoral process by the Panama Defense Forces headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega." Madrid EFE on 11 May quoted Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Londono Paredes as saying that in view of the circumstances surrounding the Panamanian electoral process, the Colombian Government "must express its deep concern over actions aimed at restricting the people's legitimate, sovereign right to freedom of expression." Londono was reported to reiterate as well Colombia's "unchangeable adherence to the principles of nonintervention in the internal affairs of states, its rejection of threats or force, and the inviolability of international treaties."

Madrid EFE on 9 May reported that the Peruvian Government expressed in a communique its opposition to "any manipulation" of the election results in Panama but also to any "foreign pressure or intervention" in Latin America to prevent the return of the canal to Panama. President Alan Garcia is cited by EFE on 6 May as saying that "with great concern, we see that the Panamanian electoral process will not take place with many guarantees." On the annulment of the Panamanian elections, Paris AFP in Spanish reports that a 10 May communique issued by the Peruvian Presidential Press Secretariat condemned and rejected "the possible decision by the Panamanian Government to annul the elections."

Although EFE cited Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abacia as saying his government "will recognize whoever wins" the Panamanian elections, Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish on 10 May reported a communique issued by the Argentine Government condemning the Panamanian Government because of "its attitude of ignoring the people's will as the only source of legitimacy." According to the report, the reports of fraud and violence show "a series of affronts against the Panamanian people." Furthermore, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, in another report by Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, termed the beating on 10 May of opposition vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford as "shameful." In official statements reported by Santiago and Montevideo radio stations, both the Chilean and Uruguayan foreign ministers expressed "concern" over the situation in Panama, but Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe was cited as adding that "Chile also views with concern the increasing intervention by some nations in Panama's domestic affairs."

Regional Organizations

Citing "serious concern over the absence of guarantees during the elections in Panama" and "evident manipulation" of election results, the Honduran Foreign Ministry, according to EFE on 11 May, reported that the Latin American countries had called an OAS foreign ministers meeting on Panama for 15 May. In addition, Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish reported on 11 May that Venezuela had requested a meeting of an OAS Permanent Council on 12 May to discuss the Panama situation.

Madrid EFE on 9 May cites Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris as warning that if there were election fraud in Panama, it would be "definitely excluded" from the Group of Eight. The same report cites Tejera as saying Venezuela "would not recognize a fraudulent government." However, DPA, EFE, and Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish on 11 May report the issuance of a Group of Eight communique on 10 May that states "the strict observation of nonintervention, an essential principle of Latin America's foreign policy, demands refraining from passing judgment on the specific reasons for the political crisis in Panama." The communique does express concern, however, "over a situation that can further alienate the Panamanian Government from the Latin American democratic community." PRENSA LATINA on 10 May reported that "a proposal by the Peruvian and Venezuelan Governments to hold an urgent meeting of Group of Eight foreign ministers" on the Panamanian elections seemed "doomed to failure" when it did not receive support from the group's seven members," especially the Mexican Government."

Paris AFP in Spanish on 11 May, however, reported that "Panama's isolation at the United Nations increased today when the Rio Group" expressed "dismay" over the Panamanian Government's possible movement away from the "Latin American democratic community." In a document that AFP reported will be issued to the UN secretary general in the "next few hours," the Rio Group also stressed the need to respect "self-determination and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries."

Foreign Ministers Suspend Meeting in Guatemala

PA1105184989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1623 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 May (EFE)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Palencia has reported that the meeting of Central American foreign ministers scheduled for May was canceled at the Costa Rican Government's request.

The foreign ministers, who compose the area's executive commission, were scheduled to hold a meeting 14-15 May to assess the document for the demobilization of the contra movement approved by the region's deputy foreign ministers in Guatemala City.

The sources stated that the meeting was suspended because Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal is scheduled to travel to Ecuador.

Guatemala officially proposed holding the meeting 8-9 June and is waiting for the response of the other Central American countries, Palencia said.

The executive commission must assess the draft copy of the timetable for the demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of the contras stationed in Honduras, which must be approved by the Central American presidents during their meeting in July.

Cuba

President Bush's Measures in Panama Noted

FL1105232989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] U.S. President George Bush announced this afternoon that a brigade is being sent to reinforce military forces in the Panama Canal Zone and recalled the U.S. ambassador in the country within the framework of a number of measures aimed at achieving an acknowledgement of what he called the defeat of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime during last Sunday's elections.

Bush announced that the United States would support what he called a collective action that he said will be initiated by other OAS countries. He noted that in addition to recalling Ambassador Arthur Davis, he ordered that the embassy staff be reduced, that U.S. civilians be evacuated or relocated to U.S.-controlled areas, that restrictions on travel to Panama be stiffened, and that current economic sanctions be maintained. By the way, the U.S. President did not rule out additional measures, according to AFP.

Annulment of Elections in Panama Reported

FL1105235589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2303 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] There was a tense calm in Panama hours after the Electoral Tribunal declared the annulment of the elections. Traffic increased and businesses opened their doors, although many store owners commented on the possibility of new violent incidents promoted by the opposition taking place in the evening.

Newspapers reported the events and highlighted that the violent acts, irregularities related to the delivery of ballots, and missing votes caused the annulment of last Sunday's elections. Local television and newspapers showed the disturbances that occurred during the protest organized by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, and made reference to the four members of the Defense Forces who were wounded when they were attempting to restore order.

At the same time, the media and officials continue charging and protesting the U.S. interference and its campaign supporting the thesis of fraud before the elections were even held.

Today, the United States considered opposition candidate Guillermo Endara of the ADOC as Panama's president-elect. Endara was slightly wounded in the last few hours by civilian groups who attacked him in the streets while he was staging a destabilizing demonstration.

Today's annulment of last Sunday's elections opens a new chapter in the crisis Panama has experienced for 2 years. The Panamanian Government is tenaciously being harassed by the United States and the local pro-American opposition.

The measure was announced by Yolanda Pulice, president of the Electoral Tribunal, who read a decree on the matter on a national radio and television network.

Panama Radio Reporter on Country's Situation

FL1205022789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2313 GMT 11 May 89

[Phone report from Panama by Jose Ivan Ramos, from Panama's Radio Nacional—live]

[Text] Good evening, listeners of Radio Rebelde's "Exclusivo" newscast in Havana, Cuba. This is a special report by Panama's Radio Nacional for the listeners of the newscast directed by Daniel Torres.

Panama City is totally calm and quiet at this time. Business at public and private offices was normal here in Panama today. At this time, the country and the world is expecting the announcement of a general state council meeting scheduled for the early evening hours today because of the threatening situation of the U.S. troops. The most recent cable reports indicate that U.S. President Bush has authorized the arrival of 2,000 more soldiers, who will join the 12,000 already in the canal strip.

Through the microphones of Radio Rebelde, Panama asks for the solidarity of the world to help us in this crucial period that our country is experiencing due to the attempts made by U.S. imperialism to continue to practice continental absorption.

We reiterate to the listeners of Radio Rebelde's "Exclusivo" newscast in Cuba that after the Electoral Tribunal's announcement that it was annulling the 7 May elections—because of the number of irregularities presented by the oligarchic sectors that have attempted to present to the world the incorrect thesis of an electoral fraud—that the city is completely calm at this time and is waiting for the domestic and international situation to return to normal so that we can once more take the path of tranquillity here in Panama.

Radio Rebelde friends, this has been a panoramic view of what is happening in Panama at this time. We repeat: According to cable news, there are threats that President George Bush has authorized the arrival of 2,000 more soldiers to join the 12,000 who are already in the canal zone.

More on Foreign Ministry's Statement on Panama

FL1205013289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Considering the events that have taken place during the Panamanian elections, the Cuban Foreign Ministry has issued a statement expressing the Cuban Government's growing concern regarding the remarks made by top members of the U.S. Government and the news campaign unleashed by the U.S. media.

The note published by GRANMA today says the campaign is aimed at questioning the legality of elections in Panama and at preparing public opinion for fraud charges even before the elections were held. The note adds that this campaign is the continuation of the illegal policy the United States has followed on the isthmian country based on the idea of a limited sovereignty of Latin American countries and a right for Washington authorities to become supreme judges of the legality of the governments of our region.

The document adds: The Republic of Cuba Government warns about the serious consequences a possible U.S. military intervention in Panama would have for the entire Latin American region and for the interests of relations between Latin America and the United States.

The Cuban Government believes that what is at stake here is not the development of the electoral process of a country, but U.S. desires to become an arbitrator of our countries' political processes. Likewise, Cuba rejects foreign intervention in Panama's domestic affairs and reiterates that it is up to the country's authorities and institutions to decide their own destiny. A violation of these sacred principles would only benefit those who want to prevent the cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries that allows them to become closer and closer and the peace, security, sovereignty, and democracy among them that allows our people to become stronger.

Agreements Signed With Afghanistan, Zimbabwe

FL1105185889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] A protocol extending the cooperation plan between the Cuban Foreign Ministry [MINREX] and its counterpart in the Republic of Afghanistan was signed this morning at MINREX headquarters. The document was signed by Giraldo Mazola, Cuban vice foreign minister, and Abdul Majid Sarbuland, Afghan ambassador to Cuba.

Later, the agreement on the rectification instruments for the culture accord between the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Zimbabwe was also signed at the MINREX.

Castro Delivers Speech in Sancti Spiritus

FL0905183689 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 May 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at 2200 GMT on 6 May at the Serafin Sanchez Square in Sancti Spiritus—recorded]

[Text] Comrades of Sancti Spiritus: I was told that there would be a small event here in the capital of the province. From what I see, there cannot be small events in Sancti Spiritus. [applause] I remember the first time I was asked to speak here; it was in early January. Was it on 5 or 6 January? That is right, it was on 6 January. I no longer remember, because this has changed so much. However, we went down the main road. Then we went down one street. I don't know which way they took me. I ended up in a balcony. [laughter] There was also a huge crowd there, but not as large as today's. They were full of enthusiasm, hope. Therefore, my visit here was unforgettable.

At that time, almost all the bridges were destroyed. The march was slow, but we finally approached Santa Clara. There was a time when we had to blow up the bridges. Then, there was another time when we had to rebuild them, and another when we had to build new roads, and new bridges, such as the one we have here in the (?square). More recently, I remember the 26 July ceremony which was also a great event. For me, it was an unforgettable event. However, I must confess that the surprise I had today is greater. You have improvised, I do not know in how much time, a large event.

Well, as you can see, even nature is being hospitable. Instead of extreme heat, we have shade and cool air, and almost a promise of no downpours. [laughter]

On that occasion, 3 years ago, I summarized—can you hear me now—I summarized everything the Revolution had done for Sancti Spiritus. A few raindrops fell. [laughter] [30-second break in transmission] As a matter of fact, the housing buildings look like a single project, a plan, or that bridge in Diamante, or this bridge in Tres Palmas, or the highway extension [35-second break in transmission].

I was talking about white cement—can you hear me? [crowd responds: yes] It looks like I am going to have to shout. Very well, I'll stay close to the microphones so that you can hear me. I was talking about white cement. I said that if we doubled or tripled consumption [as heard], we could have enough cement even to export. However, if we need all of it, we will not export any. White cement is used for porcelain bathroom fixtures [muebles sanitarios], tiles, and for many other kinds of construction. It is also used as paint. It is very good. It is a cement-like paint and is used in new buildings such as this one. I do not know if they used it there [30-second break in transmission]. It has been an industry which has

generally fulfilled its quotas and which provides substantial amounts of cement, not only to the province [15-second break in transmission] ...a physiotherapy gym, or it could be a stomatologic clinic, like the one we saw in Fomento.

It is truly marvelous, something which in the past would have been impossible to even dream about. The clinic provides good quality stomatology services for children, youths, and adults. The Fomento Municipality Institution is one which has nothing to envy from any other one in the country. There are bakeries, stores, cafeterias, there is everything.

Supposedly, there are hundreds of projects we are inaugurating here. I have had the opportunity to see some things which had not been done, or completed on 26 July 1986. That is less than 3 years ago. Today, the medical school has been finished [rephrases] the medical school had been finished but it still lacked some things. We insisted that the pool be built as an important facility. We insisted that the student house be built. Yesterday, we had the satisfaction of seeing those facilities which complement that medical school. It is very pretty, because now it has green areas, which it didn't have before. It has an excellent pool. It is an olympic-size pool. It is almost something to envy. When you look at the advantages the medical students have these days.... [sentence incomplete as heard] The student house is also excellent. The facilities are clean. They are very well-organized. It is truly one of the prettiest medical schools in the country. The capital does not have a single medical school which is similar to this one.

Naturally, in the capital we do not have the room to build that we have here. [applause]

Yesterday I had the opportunity to see an idea which became reality. However, the main value is the idea itself. I am talking about the polyvalent building. When I heard about the polyvalent building, I wondered what building that was. I did not know that building existed. I was thinking about the polyvalent clinic. When I arrived, I saw it was not a polyvalent clinic but a polyvalent building. It has a cafeteria on the first floor, and some kind of a small motel, or hotel, something like that, on the second floor with approximately 45 rooms. Is it 45 rooms? [unidentified person answers: 25 rooms] Oh, I see, 25 rooms, but each room can lodge 3 people. It is on the second floor. See what a good idea it is! Comrade Valdes explained to me that 1 day, he and the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] were visiting hospitals around New Years Eve and they saw the relatives of patients sleeping on the floor. A facility was needed. That facility was built with a social sense. Those rooms were built for relatives of patients registered in hospitals who do not have anywhere to stay in the city, or when there are not any rooms available. The prices for the rooms are also very reasonable. They are given lodging and facilities to cook, if they bring something. They also have the opportunity to eat there at reduced prices. It is a truly good idea. Here in front of me I have two comrades from the food industry plant. What do you call the food plant? You have already changed its name. [unidentified person answers: It is the Rio Zaza] Now it is called the Rio Zaza plant. Other buildings are under construction nearby. This was a good idea. It is the type of idea that one should try to apply elsewhere. It solves important problems. Additionally, it has several homes. A group of the minibrigade workers who contributed to the construction of that project have homes in that building. Other workers who belong to the center where the minibrigade comes from also have homes there. The idea was made reality in a relatively short amount of time.

I had the opportunity to see the bridges. I saw the extension of the roadway which was built in record time. I saw the other bridge which links the roadway to the avenue. It can be called an avenue because it is 12 km long and takes you up to Sancti Spiritus. We had a chance to tour the Jiquima road. There we saw Manolo managing the project. We saw a group of men building a 120-meter bridge there. I understand that Manolo has participated in the construction of over 150 bridges here in the province. [applause] He is...[rephrases] I am not sure whether he said that he was 66 or 68 years old. He says he has no intention of retiring, he intends to continue until he is told he cannot continue building bridges. However, he was grumbling because he was told he could not climb on top of—what do they call it? [unidentified person answers: pedestal]—a pedestal. It is way out there, almost in the clouds. Everyone tries to [15-second break in transmission] ...dead there, building the bridge. He does not have to climb there. I asked him: Why do you climb it? [applause] He answered: Well, I do not have enough operators. I thought he was going to answer me: Well, I wanted to see how the welding was coming out. But no, he wanted to be there as an operator. I told him: Talk to Valdes. He will get you a young operator, someone who can even parchute down. [laugher]

Anyway, we saw those and other projects that were built at an (?accelerated) pace. You can tell the difference. The pediatrics... [rephrases] the clinical-surgical hospital was fully operational. It started operating on 26 July 1986. It is because of the revitalized minibrigade movement that today we travel on a highway from Havana to Sancti Spiritus. We no longer have to take the main road which has hills, curves, and is dangerous. We can travel much more safely. All this was done in a very short amount of time. That is why the workers deserve recognition, as well as the party, and the ANPP in Sancti Spiritus for this large number of valuable projects. However, what impresses me the most is not even what has been done. What impresses me is the idea of what is being done, the things that are being planned, and the pace with which the work is being done in these times when we are making up for lost time. Everywhere we see.... [changes thought] Well, now we are thinking about what to do with the factory. We have enough cement. What to do?

The administrator and the workers of the Siboney factory were telling us that with a small [30-second break in transmission] ...150,000 tons of gray cement. However, we continue needing [25-second break in transmission] ...means cement for 2, 3, or 4,000 homes. It is useful for many things. However, they are projecting [10-second break in transmission] ...for the overall economic development of the province. We are also planning to build a factory for the production of asbestos-cement pipes [10-second break in transmission] ...which is very efficient. The workers of the Siboney have shown their ability to handle those [word indistinct].

We also visited the tile and mosaic factory. It is almost complete and will produce cement that I think is called (concresactil). The cement will be taken to the mountains. Everything is premixed and you only need to add water to it. We were also thinking about building a factory for pipes with steel [word indistinct] which are so necessary for aqueducts, irrigation systems, and many of those things. It is another great industry that is being developed.

We had the opportunity to see another plant which is almost complete. It is the (Siforet) plant, it has been there for years, half-completed. In recent times, it has gained momentum. It will have a great capacity for production. The shops are so big that you could install equipment to double their capacity. It is a type of block, an element [as heard] for construction which is very light and which uses one-fourth of the cement that an ordinary block uses. It allows you to build panels, walls which do not weigh [15-second break in transmission]. Production, on the other hand [30-second break in transmission].

No, no it was not that yet. It is the ceramics plant. We saw two of them when the ground-moving preparations were taking place. The country has already acquired and received 50 percent of a large factory for porcelain bathroom fixtures. [35-second break in transmission] ...construction are being completed. They show the prospects for important industrial development for Sancti Spiritus Province.

However, we are not just working here. I have already mentioned what we are doing over there near Siguaney. I had the opportunity to see the dam under construction which is called La Felicidad. It will hold several hundreds of millions of cubic meters of water to irrigate hundreds of caballerias of sugarcane at the Uruguay plant. There, we had the opportunity to meet with the council [5-second break in transmission]. We analyzed the development of the sugar plant [2-second break in transmission]. We [word indistinct] over 100,000 tons; and the time it produced the most, it produced under 100,000 tons of sugar, approximately 90,000. In this sugar harvest, despite the heavy rains in March and April, they fulfilled [15-second break in transmission]. [applause] A sugar production that is as high as the one of Pinar del Rio Province, which has also increased its sugar production with its completely new plant that produces 600,000 arrobas daily. It is almost double the sugar produced in Guantanamo Province. That is a single municipality, a single sugar plant here in Sancti Spiritus. It is also impressive to look at the efficiency indicators. From 1981 to now, the (?harvest) indicators have risen to over 85 percent, despite the rain. I think they would have even had a point and a half higher percentage if they had not had the weather problem. Up until the time it started to rain, they had excellent indicators, the industrial production was high. The number of storage centers and sugarcane cleaning centers they have.... [changes thought] They no longer take the sugarcane directly to the scale, but rather they first put it through a cleaning center. This reduced foreign matter by 12 or even 14 percent, or 5 or 4 percent, or even less. This is very important in the processing of sugar. They are carrying out the program for partial drainage and irrigation in low lands which used to produce very little sugarcane per caballeria, and today its production in increasing notably. What are the development plans for future years? [30-second break in transmission]. There is a dam in the northern area which is about to be built. I proposed to them that they make the effort to begin building it this year, toward the end of the year. This is the Dinora Dam, and other dams. The irrigation system will accelerate the increase of the irrigation areas. We promised them to look for some resources to form another brigade for dams.

The one that is already being built goes toward the north to take advantage of the facilities that are in that northern area. We are building a dam that, in conjunction with the small reservoir in Aridanes, will help irrigate 500 caballerias of sugarcane in the northern area. However, the comrades there have an idea of everything they need to do. [3-second break in transmission]. Of course, they were very happy with the idea of being able to accelerate those plans. They already had 500 caballerias with irrigation, and they were planning to reach the year 2000 with more than 2,000 caballerias with irrigation. We proposed an effort; we also provided a contribution to try to obtain those 2,000 caballerias no later than 1995. That is what we are currently trying to do. We are trying to push ahead many plans. However, when one sees a collective of workers which is efficient, which has been able to handle that colossus—and that truly is a colossus because it's one of the biggest sugar mills in the country, perhaps the largest, and it [28-second break in transmission] ...to cooperate with them. This is what we try to do all the time, everywhere.

How do we reduce the time to do this? However it is stimulating and [14-second break in transmission] ...with a high level of productivity, because they have more than 70 percent of the [11-second break in transmission] ...of the Uruguay Sugar Mill, but they know they're going to have more sugarcane [20-second break in transmission] ...for both things. We will be able to produce more sugar and more protein. They already have everything planned; they know what they will need

to expand that sugar mill. As they say, with a strong effort [entre ceja y ceja] they have every intention of producing 300,000 tons of product; this is in the future and depending on the availability of sugarcane to [8-second break in transmission]. If they dedicated all of it to sugarcane, they could easily reach 300,000 tons. Of course, I don't think they [4-second break in transmission] ...part of this sugarcane to sugar and an important part of that sugar to produce food for the bovine population—so they can produce milk and meat—and to the porcine [6-second break in transmission] ...larger or smaller, that feed that comes from sugarcane is of great importance because [4-second break in transmission] ...and meat.

I repeat, it is [6-second break in transmission]. I know that the other sugar mills have worked very well. They have made a big effort and thanks to them they have been able to fulfill and overfulfill the sugar production plan despite the colossal rains we had last spring, and despite the early rains we've had during this harvest. This is why I say that work isn't just done here in the capital of the province.

Know well, there are a series of plans that are accelerating in development. For example, I said that in the waterworks sector, a new dam is being built. However, this very year, we will begin to build the Agabama Dam. This dam will have the capacity to hold 800-1 billion cubic meters of water. [figures as heard] We will begin to build this dam in the 2d half of this year. This is a gigantic river which could give a significant amount of water to this province's agricultural sector, as well as that of the neighboring province's—Ciego de Avila—agriculture. We have to build a 72-km canal to connect that dam with the Magistral Canal of the Zaza Dam [15-second break in transmission] ...(Iguanojo) where we have over 30 million cubic meters of water.

Then, we will begin to build that part of the canal within the next few months. We will organize a small contingent there and supply them with new equipment so that we can take the water from (Iguanojo) to Banao. Right now in Banao we are working on a project which will have almost 500 caballerias of tubers, vegetables, and fruits. As you know, the terrain in Banao is privileged, it has a microclimate, [as heard] and it has good earth. That is one of the things we analyzed immediately and discussed with the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] to make it a reality as soon as possible. So then, we will begin work on the Agabama Dam; the Magistral Canal, which will [25-second break in transmission] ...Ciego de Avila. We will irrigate tens of thousands of hectares, [5-second break in transmission] ...vegetables, fruits, and sugarcane with excellent water from Sancti Spiritus Province. That canal has been built by a contingent which works at a magnificent rate.

This means that, at the end of this year, work will be simultaneously carried out on three important dams. Those brigades already have their positions; in the north part of the province [corrects himself] in the center of the province. We plan to dam up every last drop of water in Sancti Spiritus Province, which is, fortunately, one of the richest provinces in water. [applause] We are also going to use the underground water supply, which is around 100 million cubic meters of water, in Sancti Spiritus' rice fields. Those rice fields are the highest producing rice fields in the country. Also, those rice fields have semi-engineer systems [sistemas semi-ingenieros] which produce up to 1,500 quintales per every caballeria of humid rice [as heard], and even more. Sancti Spiritus was the pioneer in certain engineering projects which helped increase yields. Later, this was detained for a while; it was paralyzed, and the equipment was used for something else. So now we are working on all of the nation's rice fields to transform them [19-second break in transmission].

Brigades are already being formed in Camaguey and Granma Provinces. However, we also want to—and it was one of the things we agreed on during this visit—make an effort to organize, this year, the first construction brigade to work on engineering projects in the rice fields of Sancti Spiritus. This would be the first brigade of its type. Later, we'll organize other brigades, but so that this type of work in the rice fields—which was pioneered in this province—doesn't fall behind, we'll organize this one first. I think that this will be a nice bit of news for the rice workers. This year, we will make every effort to organize this brigade. One of these brigades is supposed to create the engineering system for some 1,000 or 1,200 hectares; this isn't much. It's possible that in the future we will have to create four, five, or six more brigades because work has to be done in over 2,000 caballerias.

Fine, in 5, 6, or 7 years, we hope to have all the rice fields' yields elevated by over 50 percent. We are going to do this in all the rice fields in the country. This means that we will have all the water we want right here in the province. More than likely, we will also have the best rice fields here because the abundance of water—which enables us to double the yield—gives the Sancti Spiritus rice fields an advantage.

This very year we will begin to develop an important dairy project. In a few months—in 1989—the forces to build over 150 dairy farms in Sancti Spiritus Province will be organized. These farms will be finished in just a few short years. We believe they will be finished within 5 years—7 years at the most. All of these plans are new plans. They are ideas that are being applied, programs that are advancing in every sense.

As I was telling you, we have Banao and the ideas related to it. This is another program which is advancing rapidly. We are building an integral swine center and other porcine installations are being expanded. The poultry plants are being expanded to increase egg and poultry production. So you see, in every field there is an important food program: rice, tubers, vegetables, fruits, sugar,

raw material to produce animal feed to produce more milk and meat, cattle plans, swine plans, and poultry plans. I think that if we work intensely in this area, the province will become not just the industrial area, but the agricultural area. This will make it a type of jewel for the nation.

Of course, this is not the only province working on this, because any province we visit shows the same spirit and the same ideas for development that we have seen here in Sancti Spiritus. However, we can say that good natural conditions are found here, water and earth, as well as a magnificent population with a great zeal for work. [applause]

I haven't mentioned the other activities that we plan to promote. We want to promote tourism for the benefit of our economy. We have need of funds because much of this equipment we have to pay for with convertible currency; many of the raw materials have to be paid for with convertible currency. We need to increase funds. The entire nation is working on developing tourism. We plan to give tourism in the province a big boost since we have this city, which is very attractive as an old city with valuable architecture. We also have the city of Trinidad, which is known the world over and was declared patrimony of humanity by UNESCO. It is a city very well-liked by international tourists and it has excellent beaches. We plan to develop the capacities of those beaches to the maximum level possible. Sancti Spiritus also has that valley called Los Ingenios, which we plan to develop, and there is the city. I think this will become an important source of convertible currency for the nation.

Besides, these tourist attractions, the ones that don't belong to mixed enterprises but are the nation's property, can also be used for national tourism. Part of the year, usually the winter months, Cubans don't like to go—nor are they in the habit of going—to the beaches, because they think it's too cold. This is when the foreign visitors usually come. However, in July and August, which is when everyone wants to go to the beaches with the family, part of the installations which will be developed for tourism can be used by our people. The summer months are when we have less international tourism and when our people are used to going to the beaches.

So then, not only will the economy come out ahead, the provinces that develop the tourist sites will be an important source of employment. These jobs will have relatively high salaries and the national population will be able to enjoy the development of the tourist areas.

We are also going to promote a construction organization in the Sancti Spiritus area. There are some other natural resources, such as the famous medicinal waters, the Mayajigua water area, and we have Tope de Collantes, where some important enterprises have been built. We are going to study how Tope de Collantes can contribute convertible currency to the economy by taking advantage of the altitude and all that. We will also study how we can combine the partial use by national tourism and the partial use by international tourism. We still haven't made a final decision on this, but we are thinking about it. We are trying to see how Tope can become a little gold mine to contribute convertible currency to the national economy, perhaps from something like what we call medicinal tourism or medical tourism, which is growing in our country due to Cuba's prestige in the field of medicine.

The number of people who come here for medical treatment increases every year. Some diseases that don't have a cure, such as vitiligo, are now being cured in Cuba, thanks to medication prepared in Cuba. There are other diseases which are treated the same way. We are developing the production of our medical equipment and medication. Right now we have a monopoly on the production of the meningococci vaccine and we are carrying out a massive vaccination plan against meningococcal meningitis which, up to now, has been a curse. Every year, it used to kill hundreds of people, mostly children. The number of dead would sometimes exceed 200 and the number of sick used to be over 1,000. Ciego de Avila used to be in first place with this disease; after the vaccination program it has dropped down to eighth place. This battle is being won. Many countries have shown much interest in acquiring this vaccine which is being produced in our country.

Medical tourism is also a source of income for our country. Of course, we help many people. Sometimes they ask us for an operation or some medical service they can't pay for and we give it to them. But, the number of people who do have economic resources and come here asking for treatment is also increasing. Perhaps Tope de Collantes, with the installations that have been built there, can play an important role in the development of this type of tourism, the tourism associated with medicine. This is another important sector to be developed here.

Besides all this, we also have the highway. We have been studying and discussing what to do with the highway. This is in view of what the province did with its section of the highway and the effort they put into it. We have already agreed to designate a number of machines to lay asphalt on the other part of the National Highway—from Santa Clara City to El Diamante. We will take six lanes up to the Zaza River. What we are thinking of doing then is this: Keep the six-lane stretch of road from the Zaza River Bridge on. However, we would work on four lanes, two on each side, as we did in Pinar del Rio. We would reserve the other lanes for the future, for whenever the nation decides to build them by making the connections as if they were for six lanes but not by building all six. [sentence as heard] The plan is to advance. We want to advance as much as possible on the four lanes by going at full speed toward Ciego de Avila. Then, we would continue and take it with six lanes to the Bayamo-Holguin road. From there on the road would continue to be six lanes until it reaches Santiago de Cuba.

This part of the road has already been extended to Palma. The most difficult part of the road has been made; now they have to advance from Palma Soriano to the Bayamo-Holguin road. Making that stretch of highway with four lanes, like we did with the Pinar del Rio Road, is an excellent idea. We would be reserving the bridges and the foundations and not letting anything be built or any obstacle arise so that when the country is ready in the future and needs it, they can add the third lane to each side of the road.

We have agreed to this. A lot of equipment has been assigned to this to asphalt the road, and the forces that build this highway will be reinforced. Some of them are up there around Palo Alto doing some emergency work; others are in El Purio, and what we are going to do is gather them up and send them as reinforcements to push on. Later, when Sancti Spiritus reaches the limits of Ciego de Avila, they will turn the torch over to Ciego de Avila so that they may continue, with those brigades, toward Camaguey and the eastern provinces. However, they are talking about reaching Ciego de Avila toward the end of 1990 or the beginning of 1991. They say they will take the highway into the city of Ciego de Avila which means that the province will have been passed through.

There are other construction plans. The brigade that is building the Jiquima Road will later go to the south to build a 7-km stretch on the road that leads to the shrimp breeding center—it's for the artificial breeding of shrimp. What's it called? [addressing person close to him] It's called the Tayabacoa Road. That's an Indian name, isn't it? That's good, it's good to conserve it. Then immediately after, they are going to build the (Acier) Road. The province, now that the harvest is over, is planning to promote those works. I think that in a short time, that brigade will be able to go to the south. That is another area that is developing the shrimp breeding sector. We already have the technology for the artificial spawning and insemination, could you imagine that, of shrimp.

The spawning and cycle of shrimp breeding is just the same as if you were breeding chickens in our country, which is an important advance. Sancti Spiritus has a part in this national project, but later they are going to build the (Acierpe) Road. We are also studying other important provincial works to carry them out as soon as possible.

The social projects are also being developed. I don't even have to talk about the medical programs. The province already has over 150 family doctors. Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting with the provincial family doctors. They are excellent professionals and excellent people who are dedicated to their work. They have turned the family doctor institution into a great success. We met at the medical school; it's an excellent school that produces more and more graduates every year. This way, the province will be covered with family doctors in a few years. The mountains are already covered, then the fields will be covered; parts of the cities are covered with family doctors and soon the rest of the cities will be covered. No other country in the world has medical services like this. The people have happily received the services brought by the family doctors. They are doctors who study and are becoming specialists in general integral medicine. So you can see that this province, like the rest of the country, has excellent health possibilities.

In the same way, it has excellent possibilities in education. We are building (?AIDS) polyclinics, stomatology clinics, and the hospitals are being expanded—and we've made many advances here—but not a single spot of Sancti Spiritus Province will be forgotten by the Revolution's medical services.

We are also pushing forward the construction of housing. We have been discussing how to increase the number of those that are already being built. We want to know how to increase the minibrigades' output. Many of the industries I have mentioned are related to construction: cement from Siguaney, porcelain bathroom fixtures, (Siforet), tiles, and tubing of one type or another. All of these industries we are building will permit us to dispose of a large base to construct all the housing that is necessary within the next few years. Besides this, the effort this province is putting forth in the material industry sector is so voluminous that it will be able to send products to Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Ciego de Avila, and other provinces. The cement that is produced here is more than half.... [sentence unfinished as heard] If we increase production we should have more cement here for housing construction here, and in other areas. However, a solid construction material industry is being created here. I know that with the working spirit that the young people, the workers, the men and women of this province have, if we have the materials, we will be able to build all the housing we want to. [applause] We must build them with better quality each time. This building, and others we have seen, is proof of this.

Sports are developing in the province. Today, you know what it means to talk about sports. [applause] Today, we have that phenomenal thing, because it was such a coincidence. [sentence as heard] I can assure you I have nothing to do with that event. It was a coincidence. I had already planned my visit to this province some time ago; it was just the date that needed to be set. Then, when I got here, I started to hear talk about a ball game, the championship, and that it was going to be determined here, and that it was the last series. [applause] So, I said how interesting it was, but I didn't know where it was. I thought it could have been in Villa Clara, Havana, or Pinar del Rio. I did not know where it was going to be. Suddenly, I found out the championship was going to be held here, in Jatibonico, no less. [applause] So, I thought I should clarify this so they would not think that I took sides, and that I came here to motivate Villa Clara so that they would beat Havana, etc, etc. [applause] This should be clarified, right? Although everyone knows that

a large number of those of us who live in Havana came from the eastern provinces. However, those from the eastern provinces always make us look bad in sports. That is okay, but I will not say who I am cheering for. I will simply say that I like the provinces to have these games and that they win trophies. Generally, I am in favor of the most underdeveloped area of the country, which is no longer underdeveloped. [applause] I have not said who I am siding with, but I have said I am in favor of development. [applause] I have not said who I am siding with, but I have said I am in favor of those who fight and struggle and try to make progress like the provinces of our country are doing.

The first thing the Revolution did was to establish justice, help the whole country, and countryside, and within the countryside, it helped in the mountains. Then, it distributed the resources of the country. That is what the Revolution has done, and that is why today we have such great teams. They compete on a one-to-one basis with the teams of the capital of the Republic. It is a healthy population which has been developing its physical and mental abilities. That is what has made them competitive, and I like these events to be disputed so that they maintain interest and passion until the end. Of course, I mean passion with discipline. What I do ask—and there is no need to ask—of the Sancti Spiritus residents is that they behave like they always have, with their traditional courtesy, spirit of solidarity, and hospitality, and that not the slightest conflict arise in that stadium. [applause]

Well, speaking of sports, there is a project I did not mention. I was telling the party comrades that there are two small things in which we have fallen behind. One is the polyvalent [sports building]. They said that everything is ready, and they are awaiting the (?money) to build it, and that they already have everything else. The polyvalent will be an excellent sports facility. There is another small problem we have not been able to solve yet among the technicians, planners, and others. It is the pool for the sports school. As it is known, the problem is the phreatic mantle, the technicians.... [changes thought] However, I am told that they are about to find the solution. Those are the only two small things that have fallen behind in the province. [Crowd makes indistinct statements.] No? Which one? Just a moment, you are not letting me talk. You don't let me finish. I was going to say, as a matter of fact, [applause] I was going to say that now, the ground preparations for the stadium are being made. We saw that today when we went by it. We have promised some contribution so that you can accelerate the stadium project. The budget was not large enough. Today we have some materials, steel rods, some wood—we do not have much of it—but I also offered some wood we have in reserve, so that they can move the stadium forward.

So, I think that maybe in the near future, the great game, series can be held here, in Sancti Spiritus. [applause] Valdes is telling me that in 1991 the [word indistinct] is going to be played here, in the stadium. That means they plan to do it [applause] in practically 11 or 18 months. I hope that the people will participate in these activities, constructions, right? [applause] I remember that this is how the Cienfuegos one was built, as well as the one in Santa Clara. I also remember that the one in Havana was expanded in the same way. Anyway, I was told that it will hold 10,000 people, and it will be set up in such a way that the stairs will hold another 20,000. What do you think? Will that be enough? These days, how many people go to a game? How many of you would go to the stadium? [Crowd gives indistinct reply] It gets full? Well, we will soon see. It will seat 10,000, and the other seats without a roof will later have one. The 20,000 would be enough, right? If not, you can come up with something else, and build some stairs outside. I was told that it will have the precise measurements. I heard that this one in Jatibonico.... [changes thought] If the fence is 5 feet shorter, the 5 feet can turn into a disaster for any team. I was told that it is an advantage for the Centro team because they have batters who hit further. [applause] That can be a double-edged argument. Someone who could have caught the ball next to the fence would lose it if it is too low. Also, the Havana team, a far hit by them which would not be a home run over there, could be a home run here. So, that is the double-edged argument.

Anyway, I see that the enthusiasm here is high, happy, etc. If you manage to pass on that enthusiasm to your team, it could be possible for you to win the trophy. Although, it is said that the other team's pitcher has a great record. You would have to break that winning record. Everyone is talking about this, and everyone is waiting to see what will happen. [Words indistinct] it gets better, and to continue with Las Villas so that they are tied. Then, that will be decided in tomorrow's game. Let's see if at the end they are tied. That would be great; there would have to be a play-off. No one would get angry about that. So, if you have to sacrifice something.... [rephrases] If you end up tied, great. Then this series will be even more exciting. So, in this area, there is progress being made.

I asked that this event be held ½ hour earlier. It was supposed to be at 1800 but I had it changed to 1730. I calculted the time you needed to go home to watch the game on television. I also figured the time for those of you who will need to get to Jatibonico for the game. You will have 1 and ½ hours. [applause] I do not know if they kept the seats for you. That is why this event will not be very long.

In conclusion, comrades of Sancti Spiritus, I see there is progress being made in all sectors. I also think there is progress being made in the area of culture. I saw very good cultural exhibits at the university. There has been great progress in the field of defense. You have worked to turn this province, as well as the whole country, into an indestructible bastion. I have seen you have received new reinforcements; new, fresh, experienced, and victorious troops have arrived. [applause]

Therefore, gradually, it becomes more and more difficult to crush the Revolution, attack our country. He who knows it... [rephrases] he who does it will know the price he will have to pay for his audacity. [applause] We are becoming revitalized with this effort. We are strengthening the economy. To strengthen the economy is to strengthen the country and the Revolution in the military terrain. I repeat my impression is that the spirit that is found here is found everywhere in the country. People are working very seriously, and I would say better than ever. That is why, because you are part of that effort, because of the successes you have achieved, we congratulate you and wish Sancti Spiritus Province, the people, as well as the people of our whole fatherland, that they attain the future they deserve, and they will have it. Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

Regional Countries Support Nation's Role in UN

FL1105144189 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Latin American and Caribbean countries have supported Cuba's candidacy as a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council. Latin America and the Caribbean, with their 33 member states in the United Nations, have the right to hold two positions in the Security Council. Cuba will replace Brazil at the end of the year.

Cuba was a nonpermanent member of the council in 1949 and 1956, but after the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, its aspirations were blocked by successive U.S. Governments.

Another 150 Internationalists Return From Angola

FL1105145089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Another 150 Cuban internationalist combatants returned to Cuba from Angola during the past few hours. They were welcomed at the airport by Armando Hart, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], and Division General Raul Menendez Tomassevich, member of the PCC Central Committee.

Measures To Alleviate 'Critical' Water Shortage

FL1105152889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Due to the critical water situation in some municipalities in Havana City Province, the provincial government and the city's Aqueduct Directorate have adopted measures that will become effective on 15 May.

As of Monday, the municipalities east of the capital—Habana del Este, Regla, Guanabacoa, San Miguel del Padron, and part of Diez de Octubre—will have a new system for water distribution which will be available on alternate days and during certain hours. The goal of this measure is to alleviate the critical water situation in Habana Vieja, Centro Habana, Plaza de la Revolucion, and El Cerro Municipalities.

At this time, there is a water deficit of 220,000 cubic meters a day, which is the amount of water needed for 450,000 residents. Even though water levels rose in supply centers in 1988, the deficit was never recovered and the situation worsened during this year's dry period. The water levels of all fundamental water tables providing service to Havana City Province have diminished.

In addition to these measures, municipal command posts will be created to provide piped water and the completion of 17 new wells is being expedited. Pumping equipment will also be repaired and aqueduct networks will be renovated to reduce water losses.

Haiti

Protests of Arrests of Cite Soleil Youths

FL1105123089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] We remind listeners that last 26 April, 23 youths from Cite Soleil were arrested there by policemen from the Investigation and Anti-Gang Service, formerly known as the Criminal Investigations Department.

Several political leaders, leaders of socioprofessional and union groups protested the arrests, which they felt were illegal. They demanded the release of the 23 prisoners. The prisoners' statements indicated they were members of a vigilance brigade in Cite Soleil who were keeping watch for thieves.

In an interview we had yesterday morning with the head of the Investigation and Anti-Gang Service, Major Jose, the major informed us that it appears that the prisoners are, in fact, evildoers. It seems that according to the results of the police investigation, the prisoners cut off the arms of three people for allegedly being thieves. However, these people were peaceful citizens who were normally going about their usual business.

The major said that last 20 April, Saintilus Auguste and Maurice Juste were kidnapped by the prisoners. Auguste managed to get away thanks to a sergeant who was passing by, saw what was going on, and fired into the air. The second man, Juste, was so badly beaten by the brigade members that he died in the hospital from the many wounds he had suffered. According to the major from the Investigation and Anti-Gang Service, these acts were committed by the 23 youths from Cite Soleil. The man who got away, Saintilus Auguste, managed to identify one of the 23 men now under arrest. The latest incident, Major Jose said, might be the case in Cite Soleil where these men killed a businessman there.

We learned at the end of last week that the 23 youths had been sent to the Office of the Public Prosecutor to go before an examining magistrate. They were then returned to and are currently being held in the National Penitentiary for the necessary follow-up.

Such is the status of the 23 youths who were arrested last 26 April in Cite Soleil.

Disturbances at Carrefour Communal School

FL1105140989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 May 89

[Report by Michel Lubin]

[Excerpts] At around 1100 yesterday [8 May], the communal school located behind Carrefour City Hall turned into a real jungle, with two groups of students fighting each other. Also, a group of primary school students (?stirred things up) in the school courtyard.

We received a telephone call from a Carrefour communal school official who told us that school personnel and all the students were going to demonstrate against Mr Jean Coicou, the communal committee president. When we arrived at the school, we found an ugly scene. One of the school administrators tried to pretend that he had no idea there was going to be a demonstration in the schoolyard. Most of the classes and teachers had been working normally, he said.

A small group of primary school students was demonstrating to demand the resignation of the communal president. We did not see any education workers or teachers from the school; they had told us last Friday that there was going to be a big fuss in the school courtyard.

Before returning to this big clash that took place yesterday between two groups of students at the communal school, we interviewed communal president Jean Coicou, who told us that he did not know anything about the protests. The only thing he knew was that the teachers were demanding wage increases.

Mr Coicou said that the school director, Mr Cadet, had told the teachers that the city government was not autonomous, that it had been receiving a subsidy from Port-au-Prince City Hall for a long time. This money, some 115,000 gourdes, was to be used for the teachers, after city officials took out money for city employees. About 13,450 gourdes went to the communal school's personnel each month.

Mr Coicou said it was a lie that education workers had not been paid since September. The same goes for the teachers. The City Hall did not owe them any money under the table [an ba]. The 13,450 gourdes always go to the school's personnel.

When we discussed registration with the communal president, he told us that registration costs $12 per child, no more, no less. This year, the official said, for 1000 children the education department collected $51,326. This money should normally have been used to build restrooms and repair the school, but he was never able to find out where this money went. He went even further, telling us that things have been this way for a long, long time at this school. Eduaction workers have a monopoly on this money, he said.

Mr Coicou also told us that the interior minister had to intervene when striking teachers and students shut down the school. The minister had told them the communal president could not do anything for them with the small amount of money he received each month. Furthermore, the official told us he saw no chance whatsoever of negotiations to allow the children who are in solidarity with the teachers to take the coming third-quarter exams, because he has no control over the school's money. [passage omitted]

What we noted, and what many witnesses criticized greatly, was that while the primary school students demonstrated in front of City Hall, two groups of students were fighting like dogs. Some of the primary school students wanted to attend class; others, those in solidarity with the education workers, with the school's teachers, did not. [passage omitted] A knife was pulled, and there was great panic in the school courtyard. [passage omitted]

Radio Haiti-Inter Begins Testing Equipment

FL1105181389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] Radio Haiti-Inter has been running test broadcasts since the day before yesterday. On Monday 8 May, the Port-au-Prince police gave back to the radio station part of the material that the thugs had carted away last 6 April during the (?sweep) operation against four radio stations in Port-au-Prince.

Three of the pieces of equipment returned to Radio-Haiti were the STL [expansion unknown], used to link the studio to the transmitter located in Douya, the FM receiver, and the limiter amplifier [preceding two words in English], used to control the sound. The remaining equipment was so badly damaged that is was totally shattered debris of no use. Radio-Haiti did not get back certain pieces of equipment at all.

For the first time, on Monday 8 May, after approximately a month, the police managed to contact Radio Haiti-Inter to tell it to come pick up its equipment. However, the government had not repaired anything, as it had promised and as Radio Haiti-Inter's administration had demanded, as compensation for damages.

Radio Haiti-Inter began a series of test broadcasts Monday, in order to test the equipment returned to them. Meanwhile, it has ordered material abroad. They do not know at this time when they might be able to resume normal operations. However, they are working on it. [passage omitted]

Reaction in Hinche to Accusations Against Bishop
FL1105181289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] There has been further reaction in Hinche following the accusations made by a 43-person group there against the diocese's bishop. This group tried to hold the bishop responsible for and involve him in the appointment of the magistrate in Hinche.

[Hinche correspondent Moliere Richard] Seven priests from the diocese of Hinche have issued a press release to formally contradict the people going around saying—as well as to enlighten those who believe—that it is our bishop, Msgr Laroche, who put into office the new magistrates cartel that has Mrs Marie-Claude Thomas as principal magistrate, mayor, in Hinche.

The press release says: Certain people, in order to satisfy their personal ambitions, are saying nonsensical, unfounded things about our bishop. They are making our church a scapegoat so that they can settle personal accounts with other people. This grieves us deeply.

The press release adds: We vigorously support any legal action Msgr Laroche might wish to take against this small group of people.

The press release concludes: No one can alienate us from the bishop, much less make us cover this up. If, in this situation, the bishop is destined to die, we will all die with him.

For their part, 60 youths in Papaye who have been reflecting upon this matter say: This is the work of a number of people who are seeking to discredit the Catholic Church, and these people have used us as an excuse to write press releases against the bishop and our priests.

The youths say to the bishop and our priests: Courage. Hang in there! Stand your ground. We are with you. You need have no fear. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] To return to this matter of the accusations against the bishop of the diocese of Hinche, we remind listeners that more than 200 peasants from Pandiasou in the central plateau have protested the slander committed against Msgr Leonard Petion Laroche by 43 people in Hinche. These 43 people claim the bishop supported Mrs Claude Santale so she could become town magistrate.

The peasants denounce these people. They say these people are part of the sector whose speciality it is to denounce people, a die-hard sector that does not even want to hear the word change and that has also been involved in diverse arrests of peasants in Hinche in the central plateau.

Envoy to Panama Recalled for 'Consultations'
FL1205030589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0212 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 11 May (NOTIMEX)—The Foreign Secretariat reported today that the Mexican Government asked its ambassador to Panama, Carlos Planck, to return to Mexico immediately for consultations.

The diplomatic representative's recall takes place within the framework of the growing tension prevailing in Panamanian territory as a result of the electoral process held last Sunday [7 May].

Referring to a U.S. delegation in Panama on the occasion of the elections, the diplomat told the Mexico City newspaper EL DIA on Tuesday [9 May] that there is no doubt that the United States is interfering in Panama.

Yesterday, the Rio Group issued a statement reiterating its commitment to continue defending the principles of noninterference and self-determination of the peoples, as well as the unrestricted validity of the Panama Canal treaties.

The Rio Group or Group of Eight is composed of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Uruguay, Argentina, and Mexico. Panama was part of this regional mechanism until February 1987.

Costa Rica

Police Reinforcements Sent to Panamanian Border

PA1205013789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0056 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] San Jose, 11 May (DPA)—The Costa Rican Government has sent police reinforcements to the Panamanian border, high-level Public Security Ministry officials have reported. The decision was made to "prevent a mass exodus of Panamanians due to the latest events in that country."

During the last 48 hours, 60 Panamanians have crossed the border, and at least 10 of them have requested political asylum in Costa Rica.

The police reinforcements are members of the Rural Guard and the Civil Guard. They have been deployed mainly in the Guabito, Laurel, and Paso de Canoas areas.

It was also reported that "Panamanian authorities have been closely checking people entering Panama over the last few hours."

El Salvador

Duarte Comments on Events in Panama, Guatemala

PA1105221489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 11 May 89

[Report on statements by President Jose Napoleon Duarte; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Jose Napoleon Duarte has publicly expressed his disapproval of the creation of a new paramilitary group made up of well-known professionals. He said he was not consulted on this matter in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

[Duarte] "I am opposed to this. I believe it is absolutely unwise, and I believe the entire nation should be concerned about the emergence of groups of this kind. If badly handled, the creation of such groups could lead to dangerous situations. The danger is that they could get out of hand and that these forces could fail to be guided by military policies and instead follow their own rules. That is the danger."

On the events in Panama, Duarte said Noriega only wants to sabotage the expressed will of the Panamanian people. As for the announced annulment of the elections, he said it is just another ruse. Asked about a possible U.S. invasion in Panama, Duarte said now is the time for Latin America to speak out. He said he has drafted a letter to the OAS calling for a meeting of that international body.

[Duarte] "Now is the time for us Latin American democracies to raise our voices. This is a problem that should be handled by Latin Americans, and the United States should see that the great majority of Latin American countries are prepared to struggle to see democracy established in Panama. This also helps the United States and allows Latin America to act internationally in support of democratic solutions. Such solutions serve as a guarantee for all nations in America, including the United States."

Regarding the abortive coup in Guatemala this week, the Salvadoran president said the supression of the coup only strengthens the democratic processes under way in Central America. The coup attempt, he added, was condemned by all the democracies that are currently developing in Latin America.

President Duarte also said events such as the ones in Guatemala help strengthen Central America's military institutions, which appear to be ready to support democracy.

FMLN To Respect Presence of UN Observers

PA1105195189 Paris AFP in Spanish 0635 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Managua, 10 May (AFP)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of El Salvador said today it would respect the presence of UN observers in the country, and it announced the beginning of a new offensive against the Army.

Guerrilla Commander Nidia Diaz, member of the FMLN Political-Diplomatic Commission, explained that the arrival of UN observer groups in El Salvador to verify security matters "should be the result of an overall negotiation process—including not only military aspects but also conditions for democratization."

In a meeting with the [words indistinct], Diaz said this position was made known last week to the UN secretary general in New York by a delegation that included Salvador Samayoa, Miguel Saenz Valera, and Mercedes Letona from the Political-Diplomatic Commission.

According to the commander, the guerrillas guaranteed the United Nations that the presence of its personnel in El Salvador would be respected by the guerrillas, "just as we respect," she said, "the embassies in our country, including that of the United States."

The commander noted that since the beginning of the year, the FMLN had ordered the suspension of all types of actions against the personnel or installations of the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador, except in the case of advisers who provide active assistance in combat zones.

Moreover, Diaz said that at the beginning of an offensive against the Army yesterday, 70 casualties were inflicted on the troops.

Less than 3 weeks before President-elect Alfredo Cristiani of the right-wing National Republican Alliance (ARENA) takes power, the FMLN has practically declared war against him with the new campaign, which includes most of El Salvador's 14 departments and which, according to Diaz, includes "different types of struggle."

Diaz, who is also the FMLN representative in Mexico, condemned the steps taken by Cristiani on his tour last week of Central America—excluding Nicaragua—in which he asked for the postponement of the next regional "summit" until July, with a 2-month delay from the original date.

She also criticized the intentions of the president-elect to tie the dismantling of the Nicaraguan contras in Honduras, agreed upon by the presidents of the area, to a demobilization of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Cristiani "is trying to establish a nonexistent symmetry between the two forces." The struggle in El Salvador is caused by a social confrontation and not by foreign intervention, Diaz said.

Guatemala

Cerezo Speaks on Administration, Elections

FL0905182089 Guatemala City CRONICA in Spanish 5 May 89 pp 13, 14, 17

[Interview with President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] Things are not as hectic in the president's office as the average Guatemalan citizen might believe. The office is not the site of a harried president tearing his hair out. To the contrary, the president has a high regard for himself and for his performance. At least, that is the impression he gave in the following interview.

[Reporter] When you took over the government there were great expectations. Today, 40 months later, your popularity rating is taking a serious beating. Can you tell us why?

[Cerezo] I have doubts regarding the reports that my government is unpopular. Trustworthy, impartial polls have shown that the popularity of my administration has remained at the same level since I took power. However, it must be understood that after having received the support of almost 69 percent of the voters, it is logical that all of their expectations cannot be met. Several sectors made up that high percentage, and each sector expected more than what can possibly be achieved. In addition, the government must take the measures that will benefit the majority, and this has placed it at odds with some dissatisfied groups.

[Reporter] It has been said that one of the problems with your style of leadership is that you hold most of the decision-making power and have not delegated responsibility to your colleagues. As a result, criticism is leveled at the president and not at the government, which results in a weakening of the system. Do you not believe that this is rather dangerous?

[Cerezo] I have delegated a large amount of responsibility but, in general, at this time the system revolves around the president. That is my style. I know many Latin American presidents who insist that the ministers must shoulder the burden of power. They claim that this helps them maintain their popularity. Nevertheless, the ministers' image deteriorates and the presidents still finish their terms amid vast unpopularity. I do not believe that the ministers' image should be placed at risk, because the president's image can stand the wear and tear; the president can take all the necessary political risks. The president's colleagues probably represent the nation's political future, and consequently should not be "burned out." On the other hand, the president cannot be reelected, and so he can afford to jeopardize his popularity ratings.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, is it not contradictory to vest excessive authority in the president and maintain a very weak cabinet that is not considered a valid spokesman on any front?

[Cerezo] That is part of our country's system, and it is the same in many countries. People do not usually follow up on things. At the beginning of my administration, the use of de facto measures to solve labor or business conflicts was much more common than it is today. Why? Because at that time no one trusted the legal system. Things have changed. Furthermore, many of the steps that I take are based on advice from the ministers. The ministers have a lot of power and are in the best position to give advice because they are close to the problems.

Additionally, the people like to hear things from the president himself. A minister can say whatever he feels like, but confirmation by the president is always sought. That is how our system works.

[Reporter] I would like to continue on this topic: Isn't the system weakened by the fact that everything hinges on one single person?

[Cerezo] We must get rid of the idea that a president is either strong or weak. Democracy must be maintained even if the president is not considered sufficiently solid. It is also wrong to take every single problem to the president, and to think of replacing him instead of waiting for his term to end. I believe this is a mistaken idea about the exercise of power that is held only by the Guatemalan elite and not by the masses.

[Reporter] No one questions the president's right to have a candidate of his choice in the upcoming elections. However, it is felt that it was too early to begin the struggle for succession.

[Cerezo] That is unfair. I did not begin the race for the Presidency. A newsman asked me if I was leaning toward Fernando Andrade. I honestly responded that I supported Alfonso Cabrera. This statement did not launch the election campaign because campaign candidates have been around since the past elections, and when I made this statement Alfonso was already a presidential hopeful.

[Reporter] However, when you made that statement you made the dispute official.

[Cerezo] What do you think would have happened had I refused to make that statement? I do not believe that the president should remain detached from the political process; I myself am a politician. I made nothing official. When I expressed my opinion, other DCG [Guatemalan Christian Democracy] presidential hopefuls began campaigning to get the nomination.

[Reporter] The DCG candidate will be announced on 18 June. The president and the official candidate will have to share center stage; as a matter of fact, they will also share decision-making power. It will be like having two presidents.

[Cerezo] No, I do not think that is the way it will happen because the candidate will be totally involved in his campaign. However, we must admit that in certain matters of importance for the nation the views of the official candidate, and the other candidates, will have to be taken into consideration.

[Reporter] It is believed that the fact that there are several presidential hopefuls in the ruling party is creating divisions in the cabinet.

[Cerezo] In that sense we have not had a single problem. You saw how when one presidential hopeful resigned from the cabinet, the other hopeful was told why he should do the same so there would be no charges about an alleged diversion of funds for the campaign. I help out with the work being done by all the ministers and I think they are doing a great job.

[Reporter] Are you pleased with the work your ministers are doing?

[Cerezo] Yes, I am generally pleased.

[Reporter] However, there is the feeling that your government has worried more about party business than about the search for solutions to the country's problems.

[Cerezo] That was a wrong impression that could have resulted from the fact that on the weekends you can see the ministers accompanying a presidential hopeful, but the truth is that they are not involved in the political struggle.

[Reporter] Let us talk about other problems. Why did the president attack the media?

[Cerezo] Well, I did not attack the media; I criticized them. The topic I mentioned is a moral topic that I believe is of national importance. Because of its importance, it must be broached by the president. Also, I am willing to sit down and talk this over, not to condemn the media but to find a way of correcting their mistakes. Many people have already said that what I said about the press is true. The truth is that the people feel defenseless in face of any report published by the media because they do not have the opportunity to defend themselves.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the government is not going to propose amendments to the law on freedom of expression?

[Cerezo] We have no plans to do that. All we have suggested is to discuss the moral behavior of the media. When there are charges of corruption I insist that the charges be proven. During the May Day parade, union members accused the government of corruption and they criticized the press. The media covered what had been said about the government but did not mention what had been said about the press. That is immoral. Likewise, when the Episcopal Conference released its pastoral letter pointing out corruption in the government and private sectors, the press only picked up what had been said about the government and omitted any reference to the private sector.

[Reporter] We have heard that there are some differences between the military leadership and the president. The reason for these differences seems to be the government minister's inability to curb violence. Is there any truth to this?

[Cerezo] There is no truth to that. There have been no discussions regarding this matter. There could be some displeasure among lower echelon officials, but that is about it. On the contrary, some conservative sectors have criticized the Armed Forces because they get along too well with the government.

[Reporter] It was said that there was a heated discussion between you, [Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro] Gramajo, and [General Manuel Antonio] Callejas because of statements you made regarding the possibility of a coup d'etat.

[Cerezo] That is not true.

[Reporter] Why was [former Air Force commander] General Wohlers replaced?

[Cerezo] That was an administrative decision. He is being transferred to an administrative post in the Army. The transfer does not have any political overtones. It is a routine transfer and is part of the normal rotation process, which also involved the creation of a new air base. Some administrative problems have cropped up in the Air Force, but they were primarily caused by a case of embezzlement in which several junior personnel were involved.

[Reporter] How much truth is there in a statement by Congresswoman Catalina Soberanis regarding an alleged coup attempt?

[Cerezo] The statement by Catalina appeared to contradict a statement that I had made. She told me that in response to a rumor, the party was willing to defend the president. This led people to believe that a coup attempt had actually taken place. In reality, there has only been one coup attempt, the one on 11 May [1988]. After that, Army personnel were invited to participate in destabilizing actions, but not necessarily in a coup attempt. On 8 August the problem was limited to the Air Force.

[Reporter] And what about 27 October 1988?

[Cerezo] 27 October?

[Reporter] Yes.

[Cerezo] That goes to show you. I do not even remember that date, which shows you that nothing occurred. Rumors such as this are the basis of the disinformation campaign against the government.

[Reporter] Let us touch on the subject of public security. There have been charges that the public security situation has deteriorated sharply. This does not cast the government minister in a very favorable light.

[Cerezo] In a few days we are going to prove that the actions we have taken to bring violence under control have been effective. Using certain facts to give the appearance of a lack of security is a traditional method used by some political sectors, who then criticize the government for causing the lack of security that they themselves have promoted. The crime rate has upset the middle and upper classes.

[Reporter] It is these very sectors that are complaining about government inefficiency.

[Cerezo] Now look here. We have implemented crime control measures. A bomb attack on Dr Castejon is highly suspicious. First he makes an accusation against the president and the next thing you know he is the object of a bomb attack. Isn't that a perfect way to attract attention? I am not making any charges, but almost all politicians with low...with low...political support resort to these tactics. It is a way to get into the papers. A grenade at Dr Castejon's home? Whatever for?

[Reporter] It has also been said that security was the topic of the most recent meeting of Army commanders. This shows that the top military echelons are concerned about this problem.

[Cerezo] And that is as it should be. It is their responsibility, as well as ours, to provide security. In a televised speech, I admitted that there were a number of reasons to be concerned about security. The objective of my speeches is not merely to criticize. On that occasion I admitted that public criticism was justified. Did anyone take note of that? These threats and so on are aimed at creating an atmosphere of unrest to upset the government, impress the people, and pave the way for the appearance of a "savior of the fatherland." This savior could well be a retired general or a leader of the traditional right wing, offering to rule with a firm hand. But these sectors never have ruled with a firm hand or with anything else. They never have saved the fatherland or done anything like that.

[Reporter] The other current scandal is the milk issue. What can you tell us about this?

[Cerezo] Let me ask you a question. What if the agriculture minister, in order to stay in good graces with an institution, had approved the import of milk that had not been proven to be in perfect condition? What if, as a result of this, some children and half of the cattle in the country had died? The minister made the right decision. If one single case of hoof-and-mouth disease had occurred, it would have dashed all possibilities of exporting beef to the United States, and that is the fourth most important Guatemalan export to that country. I asked those who complained if they dared to ask us to run such a risk. None of them did, because it was a very dangerous risk.

[Reporter] If that is the case, then why did the agriculture minister ask for some of the milk that was to have arrived?

[Cerezo] That was the economy minister, and he happened to make this request long before the origin of the milk became known.

[Reporter] One last question: What changes have occurred in President Cerezo's spirit between January 1986 and May 1989?

[Cerezo] I am physically okay, with a great desire to work. Very few people are in such good shape after 3 years in office. I am very optimistic; perhaps a bit tired because of the constant work, but very happy about the development of our democratic process. Better yet, I believe the government party is going to put up a very good fight and that there is a possibility that we might win the elections. Proof of this is that everyone else is trying to join forces to see if they can beat us. If we were in as bad a shape as they say we are, anyone could give us

a thrashing. I believe that each group has had a chance to make itself heard, and that all sectors of society have matured enough to be able to participate in the process.

I am already making plans for the future. I am going to work on the international level and on environmental affairs which, honestly speaking, fascinate me. And I will offer my services to the incoming president, whether or not he is a member of my party.

[Reporter] Isn't your assessment of your administration much more generous than that of the average Guatemalan citizen?

[Cerezo] Of course. That is only natural. But the true answer to that question will be given by the elections. If our party places last, then that will mean that I was mistaken. But if a large proportion of the people vote for us and we win, then that will mean that I was right all along.

Military Court Begins Suspected Coupists' Trial

PA1105200289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1612 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 May (EFE)—The military press office has reported that the military prosecutor's office has begun proceedings against 14 Guatemalan officers allegedly involved in a foiled coup d'etat last Tuesday.

The military judge advocate's office took the initial step of interrogating the indicted officers, who are being detained at the Military Police Patrol, General Headquarters, and Marshal Zabala Brigade installations in the Guatemalan capital.

The questioning is the first step in a trial of the rebels that will also involve the Public Prosecutor's Office, which will handle the prosecution for the Guatemalan state.

The suspects were captured when troops loyal to the government of President Vinicio Cerezo thwarted a coup attempt that started at the Tactical Wing of the Guatemalan Air Force (FAG).

Two of the suspects allegedly involved in the coup attempt, Colonel Francisco Castellanos Gongora and Captain Allan Castellanos Reyes, are still at large, military spokesmen said.

Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, the first civilian leader following 2 decades of military rule, was installed in January 1986 and has faced two coup attempts during his administration.

Army Releases Names of Plotters

FL1105195489 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Nineteen soldiers, that is, six more than initially reported, are under investigation because of their alleged involvement in the attempt to overthrow President Vinicio Cerezo's government. Thirteen soldiers are being held at several military installations, especially at the Justo Rufino Barrios General Headquarters, the Mariscal Sabala Brigade, and the Military Patrol.

According to reports issued today by various sources, four officers are still at large while two others are missing. Yesterday, during a news conference held to release the official report, it was reported that Colonel Francisco Castellanos Gongora and Captain Allan Castellanos Reyes, who had been expelled from the Army, were still at large. In addition, warrants for the arrest of Infantry Captain Fernando Felipe Mendoza Ramirez and Sublieutenant Luis Fernando Perez Arteaga were issued. Meanwhile, Colonel Julio Padilla Gonzalez and Reserve Lieutenant Miguel Angel Acevedo Portillo are considered missing. None of them has been reported as having been arrested by the Provost Marshal's office. Meanwhile, their families are considering presenting appeals.

Other officers allegedly involved in the foiled coup and who will be arraigned before a military court are: Reserve Major Byron Humberto Barrientos Diaz, deputy director of the Treasury Police; Infantry Colonel Cesar Ramon Quinteros Alvardo; Artillery Colonel Raul Debesa Oliva; Air Force Colonel Juan Adenolfo Galvez del Cid, who was in Guatemala awaiting his appointment as military attache to Panama after having held a similar post in Uruguay; Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Izaguirre Cambra; Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Augusto Mendez Tobias; Air Force Captain Jesus Antonio de la Pena Corado; Infantry Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Edmundo Pasante; and Lieutenant Jaime Daniel Funes Morales.

Meanwhile, the civilian courts will hear the cases of four other people allegedly involved in the attempted coup. Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Adolfo Badilla Morales, Major Gustavo Adolfo Diaz Lopez, Captain Allan Castellanos Reyes, and Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Mazariegos Ramirez—all expelled from the Army following [word indistinct] measures adopted in 1988—will be tried in a civilian court.

Christian Democracy Urges Government Support

FL1105153289 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 May 89

[Advertisement by the Christian Democracy National Executive Committee—issued in Guatemala City on 9 May]

[Text] To the people of Guatemala: The Guatemalan Christian Democracy hereby:

1. Expresses, in a clear and categorical manner, its complete support of the government and the Army.

2. Congratulates the Army for the professional and patriotic manner in which it controlled the situation created by a group that tried to disrupt public order.

3. Urges all democratic forces, groups, and political parties that are part of Guatemalan society to express support for the process that is implementing freedoms in our country, as well as to reject anyone who would try to disrupt order in an illegal manner, which is contrary to the nation's interests.

4. Advises all Christian Democrats to remain alert to developments and to heed the instructions of the party's National Executive Committee, so that opportune support for the government and the Army can be expressed, even on the streets if need be.
[Signed] DCG National Executive Committee
Guatemala City, 9 May 1989

Progovernment Rally Held in Guatemala City
FL1105205089 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] A rally organized by Guatemalan Christian Democratic supporters and other groups that do not support the government but who have expressed their determination to defend the democratization process was held today at noon. Shortly after 1000, people from several areas throughout the city began to gather at the Civic Center. Many of the people were brought to the Civic Center by government vehicles, especially buses and trucks of the General Directorate of Roads. Progovernment and union leaders said that this rally was a spontaneous way to express their rejection of all movements aimed at destabilizing the system, and they stressed that when the de jure state is threatened, it is necessary for all democratic sectors to unite, regardless of all political ideas.

There was strict surveillance at the National Palace hours before the demonstrators began their march down 6th Avenue carrying placards and posters rejecting yesterday's coup attempt.

A union leader estimated that approximately 50,000 people attended the rally. However, he did admit that most of them were government employees. This created some problems at government offices where the daily activities were suspended. The street was closed to traffic and the usual traffic congestion was reported throughout Zone 1.

While the people gathered in front of the National Palace, President Cerezo Arevalo, high-ranking government officials, and members of the ruling party watched from the presidential balcony. After speeches by several union leaders and other people, President Cerezo urged the promoters of the coup to reflect about what they had done. Cerezo also told the demonstrators that his government will fight any attempt to hinder the democratic process, and he asked the people to remain united.

Congress Urges Support for Panamanian People
FL1105191689 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] In Guatemala City, the National Congress has approved a resolution expressing support for the Panamanian people and praising the exemplary manner in which the Panamanian people massively went to the polls on Sunday.

For the sake of the peace, harmony, and tranquillity of Panama, the resolution urges the Panamanian authorities to respect the people's will, expressed at the ballot boxes, and to recognize the citizens who were truly elected by the people as the new legitimate rulers.

Honduras

Communique Issued on Panama Election Results
FL1105175189 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 May 89 p 2

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry Press and Information Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 10 May]

[Text] The Honduran Foreign Ministry informs the Honduran people and the world that:

The Honduran Government, identified with the principles of participative democracy and the people's right to choose their rulers by means of free and honest elections, expresses its hope that the Latin American democratic process will be strengthened and that the results of the elections in the Republic of Panama will be a clear manifestation of the Panamanian people's will.
Tegucigalpa, 10 May 1989
Honduran Foreign Ministry Press and Information Directorate

Government Expresses Support for Cerezo
FL1005190689 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 10 May 89 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Acting Honduran President Alfredo Fortin Inestroza sent a message to Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo yesterday expressing his joy for Cerezo's triumph in light of a new attempted coup d'etat.

The text of the message is as follows: "Our people and government once again express their democratic solidarity with the democratic Guatemalan Government and people as well as its solidaristic support for you, Mr President, who represents the political will of the majority of people in your country. We rejoice over the

constitutional solution your government found for its domestic problems, thus proving that in a democracy, the prevalence of civilian power is, and must be, inalienable."

In later statements, Dr Fortin Inestroza said that the attempted coup d'etat in Guatemala "must be of concern for all of us who are democrats, because I believe, as a democrat, that a country's problems must be solved in a civilized manner."

"We must always remember that violence creates violence, and I believe that this attempted coup is the result of the fact that there are still some people in Guatemala who have the bad habits of the past, and who refuse to accept the democratic way of life being offered to them by President Cerezo, who was chosen by popular vote," Fortin added.

According to Fortin, President Cerezo respects freedom of expression, and those who are not happy with what he has done have the opportunity to express their displeasure in the upcoming elections, but not by supporting a coup d'etat.

Nicaragua

Reaction to Panamanian Election Controversy

Ortega on U.S. 'Intervention'

PA1105185789 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Shortly before leaving the FRG for Ireland, President Daniel Ortega alerted the international community to the possibility of a U.S. military intervention in Panama.

Ortega said that the situation in Panama following the elections is very dangerous, stressing that the United States must act with more political maturity.

Ortega reiterated that an invasion in Panama would be resisted by the armed forces and people and would trigger Latin American solidarity. He added that such a move would cause a setback in the Central American peace process.

Before leaving the FRG, the next-to-last stop on his West European tour, Ortega visited Hamburg and the city-state of Bremen. While in Bremen, Ortega met with Mayor-President (Klaus Reinginer), with whom he discussed various topics.

Borge Condemns U.S. Actions

PA1105170289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 May 89 pp 1, 2

[Text of 10 May letter written in Managua by Commander Tomas Borge, vice president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL), to the COPPPAL president, vice presidents, and the member parties' secretaries general]

[Text]
Managua, Free Nicaragua
10 May 1989
Mr President of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties [COPPPAL]
Messrs Vice Presidents of COPPPAL
Messrs Secretaries General of COPPPAL member parties
Dear Comrades:

With this letter, I wish to extend fraternal greetings from the Sandinist National Liberation Front and express its concern over the dramatic situation Panama is experiencing as a result of the U.S. Government's threat to use force and intervene in Panama's domestic affairs.

The U.S. policy includes the probability of a direct intervention as well as acts of provocation, such as the illegal presence of U.S. Government delegates and a propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting Panama's election process. This policy must be clearly and categorically condemned by COPPPAL.

The U.S. Government's conduct openly violates international law and affects the legitimate interests of all the peoples of Latin America.

Moreover, it is impossible not to note that this policy disregards our nations' inalienable rights to sovereignty and independence and aims to deprive Panama of its rights in the Panama Canal Zone. To this aim, the campaigns focusing on issues that only concern the Panamanian people will become the excuse to disregard the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

To achieve these goals, the U.S. Government will pressure some of the governments in the region so they will join the U.S. interventionist campaign against Panama.

The Latin American people's basic interests require us to fulfill our duty in condemning this tragedy, especially the U.S. Government's pretention of proclaiming itself a judge in the internal affairs of other countries. Accepting such arrogance would be condemning the countries in the region to the harshest intervention in their domestic affairs. It is only up to the Panamanian people to decide their own destiny.

We vehemently call upon Latin America's political parties to defend Panama's right to self-determination, respect its sovereignty, and emphatically and unwaveringly reject interventionist actions on issues that only the Panamanian people have the right to judge and comment on.

Esteemed Mr President, please receive our embrace and our conviction that Latin America will express its solidarity with the people of Panama and their inalienable rights.

Fraternally,

Tomas Borge Martinez

COPPPAL vice president

RN Message Sent to Opposition

PA1105203089 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1926 GMT 11 May 89

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 10 May]

[Text]Panamanian Vice President-elect Ricardo Arias Calderon, Republic of Panama

Your Excellency Mr Vice President-elect: The Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, wishes to convey to the people of Panama its clearest signs of solidarity during this critical and important moment for the future of Panama and the entire Central American region. At stake in Panama is either a future of democracy or narcototalitarianism [words indistinct]. The international community, especially the Latin American community, must face the existing situation decisively head on. This is not time for contemplation or (?hesitation). Noriega must leave Panama, and the will of the people, civically expressed, must be respected despite dictatorial coercion and [word indistinct].

We reiterate our rejection of threats by the Sandinist dictatorship against the Panamanian people's true sovereignty. The threats are a manifestation of the expansionist and [word indistinct] of the Sandinist regime, which regards Noriega and his abuses as clear examples of what it plans to do during the 1990 elections.

Our respect and solidarity to all the opposition leaders, particularly to President-elect Guillermo Endara.

San Jose, 10 May 1989.

[Signed] RN Directorate: Adolfo Calero, Aristides Sanchez, Roberto Ferrey, Wilfredo Montalban, Alfredo Cesar, [name indistinct], Enrique Bermudez.

Contra Demobilization Plan Reported, Assessed

PA1105232889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 May 89 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Contra Demobilization: An Obligation To Fulfill"]

[Text] Ten days before a deadline established by the Costa del Sol agreement, the Central American deputy foreign ministers on 5 May approved the plan for the demobilization, relocation, and repatriation of the counterrevolutionary forces.

By drafting the basic technical and operational guidelines of the plan, the governments have complied with an initial phase that will allow them—if the established deadlines are met—to move toward the final phase; that is, the disarmament of the contra forces. This would eliminate the main cause of instability in the region, which is the mercenary war the United States is waging against Nicaragua from Honduran territory.

The drafting of the plan was delayed because the U.S. Government clearly refuses to offer effective support for peace in Central America; this is reflected by the Congress' decision to continue granting "humanitarian" aid to the contras for another 300 days in open violation of a presidential agreement calling for the contras' disbandment. Despite this, the governments drafted the plan and were encouraged by Nicaragua's decision to improve internal democracy and national reconciliation by implementing extensive electoral law amendments and pardoning former Somozist guardsmen.

The Central American presidents must now carry out their patriotic duty of supporting the plan by signing it and beginning to implement it. The deputy foreign ministers' approval implies that the plan also has the official approval of their respective governments, especially because those countries committed themselves at Costa del Sol to approving the plan by 15 May at the latest. However, as when the plan was drafted, we are also noticing clear signs indicating that the U.S. Government's pressure and blackmail are again blocking the path toward consolidating and promoting the peace process.

After the hesitation shown by certain governments to hold a foreign ministers meeting (on 12 or 13 May) and a presidential summit during which the plan would be approved and implemented, we are seeing the meddlesome hand of Washington, which is determined to prevent the consolidation of the peace process at all costs.

If the Central American presidents' determination to progress toward peace is stronger than Yankee meddling, however, the obstacles that are currently hindering the meetings of foreign ministers and presidents should not delay the approval and signing of the plan. As Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco

pointed out, the presidents can receive, read, and sign the plan in their own capitals and show their determination to contribute to the consolidation of peace.

The signing and implementation of the plan would equally benefit all Central American countries. This week in Europe, President Jose Azcona said his country is "burdened" by the presence of counterrevolutionaries on its territory. Although he did not say so, it is evident Azcona is being pressured to refuse to expel the contras from Honduras not by the Honduran people but by imperialist Washington.

This is why Azcona must also take specific steps to eliminate the contra presence and in turn eliminate the problem that has gradually caused political instability in his country. Azcona's statements will be nothing more than rhetoric if he allows the contras to regroup, reorganize, and carry out new military actions against Nicaragua's border regions instead of dismantling mercenary camps.

The approval of the contra demobilization plan is again testing the political will of the Bush administration. The United States must stop hampering the peace efforts by opposing an end to the war against Nicaragua.

The following is an outline of the plan for disarming the contras:

Deadline	Action
15 May	Central American presidents officially approve and sign plan for contra demobilization.
20 May	Official establishment of the Support and Verification Commission made up of the United Nations, OAS, UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for refugees], and Red Cross. This organization would manage the entire demobilization and repatriation process.
27 May	Inspection of all counterrevolutionary and refugee camps in Honduran territory by the support and verification commission. Delivery of humanitarian aid begins.
30 June	Turnover of contra military hardware to the support and verification commission. Presentation of documents to former contras to start process of repatriation to Nicaragua and third countries. (These are tentative deadlines contingent on the plan being signed by 15 May, as mandated by the Costa del Sol agreement)

Panama

Further Reportage on Post-Election Reaction

People's Party Communique

PA1105123389 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 10 May 89 pp 2, 10

[Communique released by the People's Party Press Office in Panama City on 8 May]

[Text] 1. According to imperialist plans, the 7 May elections were supposed to show that a majority of Panamanians support the option advocated by the opposition and the physical presence of imperialism in our country.

2. The calm and order that characterized the election process showed that a majority of Panamanians are highly conscientious and determined to exercise their right to self-determination and to increase national independence.

3. The defeat of the imperialist option, which is reflected by the election results, is creating confusion among the opposition, which tried to impede the vote-counting process and the established procedure to proclaim the victor.

4. As the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] candidate announced during a news conference Sunday evening, based on figures from polls conducted by international organizations, a majority of Panamanians voiced their support for the COLINA candidate; 51.9 percent of the electorate supports COLINA candidate Carlos Duque, and 44 percent supports the opposition.

5. The opposition is supported by the ample propaganda provided by imperialism, which has not covered up its meddling in the elections. This meddling has ranged from offering $10 million in aid approved by the U.S. President to sending a so-called high-level delegation which was not approved by the Panamanian Government, in violation of the country's sovereignty. The opposition started its campaign by violating a number of Panamanian laws: The opposition retained vote tally sheets, interrupted the work of the Vote-Counting Board, stole ballot boxes, and destroyed ballots to eliminate any evidence of their defeat and thus claim that electoral authorities are committing fraud without presenting any evidence.

6. In violation of the law, opposition spokesmen are disseminating to the local and international press fabricated figures that are in turn broadcast by stations controlled by the United States.

7. The sole organization authorized to reveal election results is the Vote-Counting Board, whose work is being hindered by the actions of the proimperialist opposition.

8. Based on developments before and during the elections, the victory of the COLINA candidate is indisputable, and our people are determined to defend his victory at any cost.
Panama City, 8 May 1989
People's Party Press Office

ADOC 'Disturbances' Alleged

PA1205031489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 May 89 p 5

["The Reporters' Notebook" column]

[Text] It is a shame that Panamanian newsmen who work for international news agencies play up to the U.S. imperialist disinformation campaign against Panama.

These newsmen have not printed a single word about the brutal beating suffered by a MATUTINO newspaper photographer; neither have they reported the acts of vandalism and the burning of public offices by the Christian Democrats in Arraijan; nor have they told the world about the series of irregularities committed by the opposition during last Sunday's elections.

Part of the $10 million surfaced on Sunday. It was openly used to buy votes and consciences. The party poll representatives were paid up to 100 balboas. Attempts were also made to bribe several international observers by offering them sex, pleasure, and cash, as long as they served their purposes.

The aggressiveness of the servile ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] party poll representatives and their cohorts, who milled around the polling places, was to intimidate the voters. They shamelessly held meetings a few meters from the polling places, openly violating the Electoral Code.

All of the opposition members' actions to serve U.S. Embassy interests were part of a plan devised by [U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur] Davis and [DCM John] Maisto. After the elections, they were going to shout fraud, provoke disturbances, and then request U.S. armed intervention. The people knew about this and were prepared to repel any U.S. imperialist warmongering attempt.

If the green demons of the Christian Democratic Party engaged in a number of wrongdoings, MOLIRENA's [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] wrongdoings came in a close second. Several hoodlums paid by this party stole tally sheets to forge figures that would favor that party. They are the same ones who speak of fraud.

Now, to confuse the citizens and to create uncertainty, they are spreading lies and rumors that can only be the product of sick minds, such as those beloning to the servile ADOC members.

It was reported from several parts of the interior that some observers (gringos dressed as observers) tried to provoke disturbances at the polling tables, resorting to servile ADOC members to accomplish the task. Of course, they always had a television camera behind them. In many places these individuals left with their tails between their legs, because nobody paid any attention to them.

U.S. Accused of 'Fraud' Plot

PA1105181889 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Governments: Huge Fraud Factories"]

[Text] In recent months, U.S. media that belong to the disinformation clan have used the term FRAUD to clearly convey their purported rejection of any sort of distortion of what may really be happening in some Latin American countries when those countries select their respective government officials. In Panama's case, self-styled prophets of extreme morality and unsurpassed civic spirit have been extensively using that term as an expected evil.

To unveil the lack of reasons for their apparent allergy to that evil that scares them so much, to reveal their lack of moral authority to pass judgments on this aspect, and to prove they are the greatest perpetrators of that serious crime against society and politics, we are going to define how the word fraud must be interpreted. For that purpose, we go to the dictionary, which reads: "FRAUD, from the Latin FRAUS, FRAUDIS: deceit; intentional inaccuracy; abuse of confidence that causes or often leads to material damage. Crime perpetrated by the person in charge of overseeing the implementation of public or private contracts, IN COLLUSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OPPOSITE INTERESTS."

Without going into details, without digging too deeply into recent history, we can very well ask: How many countries has the current U.S. Administration intentionally deceived, abusing their confidence, to trick them not only materially but also politically, morally, historically, and psychologically....

How many of those governments—which have defined themselves as watchdogs of the implementation of public agreements—have been in collusion with the representatives of opposite interests to have a government that suits them....

If that question is open-ended in such a way that it will bounce like an echo from one end of Latin America to the other, it is certain the person posing the question will receive very interesting answers coming from the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile, and Jamaica, and others.

U.S. officials are trying many approaches against Panama. For years, they have been plotting with the opposition against the current regime and adopting different forms of pressure to satisfy their interests, which are opposed to Panama's interests. If this is not a FRAUD, then the dictionary's definition has been wrong from the start, or it should add the following: "Everything is FRAUD, except if the U.S. Government does it, in which case it will be called DEFENDING DEMOCRACY."

The Central American peoples are involved in a long fratricidal struggle because U.S. officials have been in collusion with the representatives of interests opposite to the will of those peoples. That criminal exercise is FRAUD, and they have been trying to carry out a fraud in our country—a big fraud—because they have been trying to get their hands where there is no room for anything but Panamanian hands. They alone want to be the ones that track Panama's future course.

Trade Union Backs ADOC

PA1105190889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 May 89 p A-3

[Communique issued by the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists on 7 May]

[Text] The Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists, SIP, expresses its admiration and respect for the example of civic awareness and responsibility shown once again by the Panamanian people, who went to the polls en masse for the 7 May 1989 national elections. According to communiques issued on 8 May by the Panamanian Episcopal Conference and by 279 international observers from 21 countries, ADOC overwhelmingly won the elections by a margin of 70 to 30 percent.

So that the new government team that will take office on 1 September 1989 can start implementing the necessary mechanisms to achieve a national reconciliation among all Panamanians and begin the nation's economic and social reconstruction, all acts of violence must cease. In addition, it is imperative that the authorities fully respect the clear, evident, and irrefutable verdict of dignified and free people, who elected the ADOC by a broad margin to direct the country's destiny for the next 5 years.

In line with the communiques issued by the Panamanian Episcopal Conference and by 279 international observers on 8 May, we appeal to the authorities to respect the people's desire for truth, justice, liberty, and peace by honoring the sovereign will of the Panamanian people, which was expressed in the elections of 7 May 1989 with the resounding triumph of the ADOC candidates.
[Signed] SIP Board of Directors
Ralph De Lima, acting president

COSEP Communique

PA1105165489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 May 89 p A-3

[Communique issued by the National Council of Private Enterprise in Panama City on 10 May]

[Text] In view of the courage and determination of the Panamanian people, who voted en masse to choose a peaceful means to overcome the current political, moral, and economic crisis and elected by an overwhelming majority the opposition ticket, the National Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] reaffirms that decision and demands that the appropriate authorities respect the people's will by acknowledging the triumph of Messrs Guillermo Endara Galimany, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford, as the only way to begin national reconstruction, which the Panamanian people greatly desire.
Issued by COSEP in Panama City on 10 May 1989
Alberto Boyd Jr, president

OAS Envoy on U.S., Elections

PA1205020289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 May 89 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Panama's Position at the OAS"]

[Text] The Panamanian delegation [to the OAS] hereby expresses its concern over the fact that various Latin American government representatives have been talking about an alleged manipulation of the vote-counting process during the Panamanian elections, without mentioning the clear and open manipulation of information on the Panamanian elections organized and still carried out by the U.S. Government.

The foreign observers' statements—with the exception of those made by U.S. observers, but including statements made by members of the delegation headed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter—agreed that the elections were normal. The vote-counting process had not yet begun when former President Carter tried to enter the premises where the National Vote-Counting Board was operating. The authorities did not let him enter the building, and any other worthy government would have taken the same measure in view of foreigners' attempts to try to interfere with a local tribunal's actions and discussions.

As for the vote-counting process, we must note that there were more than 15,000 candidates from 12 different parties competing for almost 1,300 directly elected posts, and that the entire vote-counting process and the drafting of the vote tally sheets were done by hand. The vote tally sheets had to be transported, and that entire process was conducted amid the current serious economic situation, which is the result of the U.S. Government's economic aggression.

The National Vote-Counting Board's refusal to release information on the elections and its decision not to start the vote-counting process until it received the vote tally sheets are mainly the result of the unprecedented situation of having to face the international and local public's charges that the Panamanian elections were fraudulent—charges made long before the elections even took place. In view of such a situation—to which no OAS member should be subjected as a result of the actions of another member state—the National Vote-Counting Board had to be extremely careful in dealing with the official election figures and their release.

The reports presented by various U.S. Government officials fall invariably into two categories. In the first category we have reports coming from testimonies that those officials heard. In the second category, there are reports coming from those who alleged that they witnessed actions, but these reports are in fact so dubious that they are almost childish. In this regard I must remind the delegations present that my delegation last week distributed a document reporting that the U.S. Southern Command has set one condition for newsmen seeking accreditation, and that condition is that the truth will be whatever a Southern Command spokesman tells them it will be. The difference between abiding by that condition and accepting orders to lie is minimal. It is like using a euphemism to ignore the truth.

On this occasion, the Panamanian delegation will abstain from replying to unfounded accusations on an individual basis and will only warn that these accusations are the result of a willingness to deny facts or a disposition to believe lies.

On the other hand, this is an appropriate time to invite the Latin American and Caribbean delegations to consider, bravely and from the standpoint of their own self-protection, the fact that in the struggle which Panama is waging today, one can easily see the U.S. Government's attempt to institutionalize a new method of domination, although the instruments that it has been using are well known to Latin American and Caribbean countries, because those instruments have been used to a greater or lesser extent against those countries' peoples and their rights. The Panamanian elections are a matter of internal jurisdiction, based on the principle of the self-determination of peoples. We cannot admit or permit, in contravention of the organization's charter, that they [the Panamanian elections] be the subject of debate or that they be judged by foreigners, headed by none other than the country that has tried to manipulate the nation's will with $10 million.

The Panamanian Government has been functioning with great financial limitations, but, nevertheless, it will present at an opportune time—in full detail and with documented evidence—an outline of the inconceivable scope of the strategy that was devised to attack us. For the time being, the Panamanian Government is naturally very disappointed to see that despite the fact that it has made an extraordinary effort and enormous sacrifices to fulfill the constitutional mandate to hold democratic elections, friendly countries now feel justified in demanding that it be able to announce results immediately. It must be added that complicity with the manipulation of information to control the minds of and to dominate a people—as is being done in Panama at this crucial time—is not only an invitation for the tactic to be repeated elsewhere, but also an a priori absolution of the use of that recourse against an accomplice. This is something that can be easily understood, even by governments that find it advantageous and timely to play the sinister U.S. game, because when the greed for control is unlimited, the abuses that it provokes respect no borders.

Civilians and military personnel who make up the Latin American power structure, whether in the form of authoritarian governments or with formal democratic institutions, even those who at present have the approval of the U.S. Government should realize the danger inherent in deciding to give a hegemonic power the right to decide the results of popular elections from abroad and to determine not only the legitimacy of governments but also their very right to exist.

The variety and complexity of the so-called U.S. national security interests may very well lead the United States, at any time, to apply the actions the precedent of which it is trying to establish in Panama to any Latin American or Caribbean political leader—as has occurred elsewhere and even on the American Continent—in order to produce the changes that U.S. convenience or whim demands.

Council To 'Defend' 'Victory'

PA1105163189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1144 GMT 11 May 89

[Statement by Carlos Arosemena, member of the 9 January 1964 Heroes and Martyrs Movement General Council in Chiriqui Province; date not given—recorded]

[Text] We, the members of the historic and patriotic 9 January 1964 Heroes and Martyrs Movement, feel deeply concerned and saddened when hearing purportedly Panamanian citizens clamoring for an invasion by the Americans, the biggest exploiters of human resources, the most corrupt drug addicts, and the greatest human rights violators in the world. Leaders of that power: You claim to be the champions of democracy when in fact you do not practice democracy in any aspect of your lives; you only implement the big-stick policy and the law of the strongest against friendly, small, and weak countries.

We Panamanians are presently in the midst of the process following the 7 May elections, where we witnessed the most brazen meddling in the history of the universe by the northern colossus. The United States used $10 million to feed recalcitrant and backward

seditious groups that stem from the oligarchy that ruled over us for more than 65 years and that for a long time victimized Panamanians through thefts of public funds and kept Panamanians illiterate, without medical attention, and without labor and trade unions and student and mass groups. At that time, the rifles of the former National Guard always aimed at the people the moment the people demanded their rights.

Following the creation of our movement, the October 1968 process was born under the leadership of Commander Omar Efrain Torrijos, our forever-present leader. He gained international respect for us and said we should never be afraid of negotiations, because the law was and is on our side. Today, U.S. officials have begun a disinformation campaign against the man who unequivocally told them: Hands off Panama! That man is the commander of dignity, Manuel Antonio Noriega. Because he refused to go along with the U.S. interventionist designs against the brother Nicaraguan people, these U.S. officials felt betrayed by that man, who has upheld with pride and dignity the honor of those 23 tombs [of the people killed by U.S. soldiers on 9 January 1964]. We must thank the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] for ending the ostracism former Panamanian leaders had subjected us to. We are concerned about those 23 graves. Ascanio Arosemana, Chiriqui native Ricardo Murgas Villamonte, and others shed their blood. This was the blood of Victoriano Lorenzo [turn-of-the-century guerrilla leader], Urraca and Bayano [early Indian leaders], Omar Torrijos, etc. They must be turning in their graves with shame because unpatriotic persons are clamoring for an invasion.

How will our children and grandchildren feel seeing we left them a fatherland invaded by that stars-and-stripes nation? How shameful in the eyes of the world! The Electoral Court officials must not let a day go by without announcing as soon as possible the results all of us know: the overwhelming victory of COLINA over the servile ADOC. We want to congratulate patriotic Panamanians who voted for COLINA. We also want to say we will defend our votes, no matter the price, no matter what happens. We are outraged by our Costa Rican neighbors. Until yesterday, Costa Rica claimed to be the cradle of democracy; now, it is the cradle of imperialist intervention for lending its border area with Panama. Mr Oscar Arias Sanchez: You hold a title you do not deserve; you received a peace prize stained by the blood of our Central American brothers, oppressed by Christian Democratic governments. You are a embarrassment for the peoples of Latin America. History today and tomorrow will push you into oblivion for your treason.

Hear this well: Here in Chiriqui—as well as in Bocas del Toro, Darien, and San Blas—we are going to wait for the Americans on every block, on every kilometer, because we will defend our victory and fatherland at any cost. To those who said they were Torrijists and patriots, we say this is the time to stand up for Panama. To those who have profited with the government and yet are always wavering, we say define yourselves or move over to the traitors' side. The fatherland will also recall your treason. We are not calling for violence; we are patriotically calling for peace and reflection. However, we Panamanians must settle our domestic problems without foreign intervention—only through Panamanian solutions for Panamanians. Following the principles outlined by Commander Noriega, we will defend our victory with civic spirit and dignity.

Although we are not inciting the barracks, we want the FDP to know we are on alert and watchful in the face of the aggression. We urge them to continue their professional and patriotic stance, represented by their general staff, officers, soldiers. Keep in mind that the people and I are patriotic Panamanians. Not one step backward, Mr Commander. For Panama, our lives.

'Tense Calm' in Country

PA1105171889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1649 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 11 May (DPA)—Panama woke up today to a tense calm after the violent incidents that took place yesterday and the TEP [Panama Electoral Tribunal] decree annulling the 7 May elections.

FDP soldiers have been deployed in several parts of Panama City, and frequent troop mobilizations could be observed this morning.

A Panamanian Human Rights Committee spokesman said the committee is holding a meeting to assess the current local situation and that in the next few hours it would present a document to the TEP requesting the abrogation of the decree annulling the 7 May presidential and parliamentary elections. [passage omitted]

Ford Receives Prison Sentence

PA1105184489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1715 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama, 11 May (EFE)—Guillermo Ford, Panamanian opposition second vice presidential candidate, said today that the election annulment announced last night is an "act of desperation by the regime," and he said that he was sentenced to serve a 1-year incommutable prison sentence "for attacking FDP members."

Ford told EFE this morning: "(The government) does not want to accept the Panamanian people's will and, since it was unable to alter vote tally sheets, it decided to annul the elections."

After a general checkup conducted at the hospital where opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara has been hospitalized—both Ford and Endara were attacked while demonstrating against the election fraud yesterday afternoon—Ford said: "Democracy is worth fighting for."

Some opposition sources said that a demonstration in Panama City has been called for tomorrow to protest the election annulment announced through an Electoral Tribunal decree, which did not indicate whether there would be a new election process.

Ford, leader of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA) and the ADOC second vice presidential candidate, said that last night a judge sentenced him to serve a 1-year incommutable prison term for "inciting disturbances and attacking FDP members" and that he was taken to the Modelo prison.

Very early this morning he was released and left at his home by military security agents.

In statements to EFE, Ford's relatives said that he arrived home at about 0400 (0900 GMT) and that his condition "is not serious, although he was badly injured."

The politician said he was "detained" yesterday by uniformed military personnel after having been beaten by "paramilitary" groups during the disturbances that ended an opposition march "to protest the election fraud."

Ford received injuries to his left cheekbone and right shoulder as well as multiple bruises.

FDP doctors treated his injuries last night at the Modelo Jail, Ford said. This morning he was given a general medical examination at a private hospital where Endara, who received injuries to the head and side, is hospitalized.

After his detention by "uniformed" FDP personnel yesterday afternoon, Ford was taken—according to his statements—to the S-2, a military security office, and subsequently taken to a jail, where he was asked to provide basic personal information just as is required of any regular detainee.

Subsequently, and "without having any problems" with the military who escorted him last night, as Ford himself stressed, he was taken to a night court where he was sentenced to serve an "incommutable 1-year sentence" and was taken back to the jail.

At approximately 0230 (0730 GMT) today, Ford said, "G-2 agents" (state and military security) asked him whether he wanted to go home. He said yes and they took him to his house. [passage omitted]

Opposition 'Sit-Down Strike'

PA1105182989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1716 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 11 May (AFP)—The Panamanian opposition and the country's major business associations were discussing today the possibility of calling a sit-down strike to reject the annulment of the 7 May elections. The annulment was also condemned by the U.S. Embassy in this capital.

Opposition sources said top leaders of the ADOC met early today with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Panamanian Industrialists to agree on the date and type of strike.

The opposition leaders believe a sit-down strike along with international diplomatic pressures would contribute to the fall of the General Manuel Antonio Noriega regime, which has been practically isolated following the 7 May elections and the subsequent scandalous fraud accusations.

"We are discussing a call for a general strike; meanwhile, workers from various companies have been told to remain alert for any strike call," an opposition leader said.

ADOC has not yet stated its official position following the annulment of the elections, but its press spokesman Anel Beliz said: "We do not accept that decision, because Guillermo Endara is Panama's president-elect." [passage omitted]

When the official vote count was suspended, Carlos Duque, the progovernment candidate of COLINA, was leading by some 50,000 votes over Guillermo Endara, the ADOC candidate, when only one-fifth of the votes had been tallied.

Following the announcement of the election annulment, confusion and uncertainity prevails over Panamanians, who are waiting for an official announcement from President Manuel Solis Palma on the scope and immediate repercussions of the measure.

While rumors circulate, there was speculation that Solis Palma—and through him, Gen Noriega—was considering the possibility of forming a civic-military government junta.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in the streets of Panama City was extremely tense at noon today [1700 GMT], while special Army troops are posted in various parts of the city.

TEP on Annulment Alternatives

PA1105212189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1931 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 May (DPA)—TEP magistrates announced today that they are not responsible for the decision on whether or not there will be new elections or whether to use other alternatives to replace the 7 May elections, the results of which were declared null yesterday.

Magistrate Aurelio Correa said that the Executive, legislative, and judicial Branches must decide on this matter, which could mean calling for new elections, a constituent assembly, or other alternatives.

Correa denounced the fact that the TEP and the National Vote-Counting Boards, which were in charge of proclaiming the new president, were pressured by former U.S President Jimmy Carter, an observer of Sunday's elections, who argued that "fraud was being committed and that the magistrates had an obligation to put an end to it."

Correa said that Carter's disrespect went as far as calling TEP President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez a "liar." Magistrate Aurelio Correa said that the TEP had to choose "between allowing war to erupt in Panama or anulling the elections" in order to restore peace in the country, where yesterday's violent incidents claimed lives and left approximately 20 people wounded.

Meanwhile, TEP President Yolanda Pulice said that President Manuel Solis Palma will remain in his post until 1 September and that possible options will be analyzed in the interim. Pulice added that some candidates had bought votes and had threatened TEP officials, without specifying the names of the politicians involved.

Pulice said that unofficial international observers "really came to see how the $10 million that Washington gave to a national political force for its campaign were spent."

Meanwhile, election inspector Raul Lopez said that several people are currently under arrest, accused of promoting violence after the elections. Yesterday security forces and paramilitary groups violently dispersed demonstrations by the ADOC headed by presidential candidate Guillermo Endara. Endara and his two vice presidential candidates, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, were beaten with iron rods and metal baseball bats while marching in a downtown Santa Ana neighborhood.

Ambassador to UN Comments

PA1105220089 Paris AFP Spanish
2013 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] New York, 11 May (AFP)—Leonardo Kam, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations, said today: "A U.S. military action against this country will find the FDP and the Panamanian people determined to confront and to resist such an action." The Panamanian ambassador added: "The danger of a possible U.S. military intervention is real. The information available and the general atmosphere in the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, and particularly in the minds of the U.S. public all point to a U.S. military intervention in Panama."

He also said that his country's apparent isolation "will be overcome when other Latin American countries learn the truth about the monstrous U.S. meddling in Panama's election process."

The Rio Group—made up of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela—today expressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar its "consternation over a situation that can further alienate Panama from the Latin American democratic community."

In addition, the Honduran Foreign Ministry announced today that 13 Latin American countries have requested an OAS foreign ministers meeting on Monday to consider Panama's crisis in view of the "disrespect for the Panamanian people's will" expressed through the election process.

Regarding the numerous criticisms against the Panamanian Government, Kam said that "these statements are based on a superficial knowledge of the events" and are surely "influenced by the intensive international disinformation campaign launched against my country. Some governments cannot escape the effects of such a campaign. We deplore the fact that those countries have closed their eyes and kept silent with regard to both the U.S. Government's meddling in our affairs and the mounting threats to use force against Panama."

Regarding the recent expulsion of foreign correspondents, including three from AFP, the ambassador said: "The Panamanian Government has every right to take all measures it deems appropriate to prevent any further distortion of the situation in Panama and the dissemination of lies that are so harmful to Panama's image. Those reporters were expelled because the government has evidence that they have openly distorted the truth about events in Panama, thus joining the campaign orchestrated by the United States."

AFP management has condemned the expulsion, describing it as an obstacle raised in the way of freedom of information. The AFP rejected the Panamanian authorities' charges that the AFP had "spread disinformation" while covering the presidential elections. Asked about what proof the Panamanian Government has regarding the "disinformation campaign," Kam said that this proof "is available in Panama."

Finally, Kam said that the TEP annulled the recent elections "in accordance with the Constitution." He added that "there will again be elections at the appropriate time, but the matter will be decided by the TEP according to the law."

In addition, TEP President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez admitted in Panama City today that there are no immediate plans to reorganize government institutions in Panama. Despite the annulment of the general elections, there are no plans at present to call for new elections.

The TEP, she said, "has all the time it needs to consider what to do." Ambassador Kam concluded by saying: "No discrepancies exist, because the TEP will in time take the pertinent measures in accordance with the law."

Civic-Military Accord Desired

PA1105205589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2024 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 May (EFE)—At a news conference this afternoon, Panama's opposition "clearly and flatly" rejected the annulment of Sunday's elections and called for "an agreement between civilians and the military."

Speaking on behalf of ADOC, Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC's first vice presidential candidate—who was introduced as the "vice president-elect"—said that ADOC can prove he won, "tally sheets in hand," by an advantage of 42 percent over the government coalition.

"We are not going to be passive bystanders," Arias added, making an urgent call to Latin American and European democratic governments and to the United States "to carry out concerted and prompt diplomatic actions" to "validate the people's will."

Arias expressed regret over the people killed and wounded yesterday "as a result of the violence unleashed by paramilitary forces."

2 Spanish Reporters Expelled

PA1105222489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2125 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 May (EFE)—Two Spanish correspondents were ordered to leave Panama immediately today. Their expulsion comes 24 hours after the expulsion of 11 other foreign correspondents.

The reporters expelled today are Roman Orozco from DIARIO 16 newspaper and CAMBIO 16 magazine, and Enrique Muller of EL DIARIO ESPANOL-EL PUEBLO VASCO, who, authorities said, had been added to the list of correspondents expelled on Wednesday.

According to the Panamanian Government, the correspondents expelled "were guilty of disinformation regarding Sunday's elections, which the Electoral Tribunal annulled on Wednesday.

Arias Calderon on Annulment

PA1205000489 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 2140 GMT 11 May 89

[Report on news conference held by Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC candidate for first vice president, in Panama City on 11 May]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] The other two members of the opposition ticket are not with me, because they have been admitted to two local hospitals for examinations as a result of the injuries they sustained yesterday.

First, I wish to clearly state our position on the announcement made by the dictatorship last night to the effect that the 7 May 1989 elections have been annulled. We clearly and emphatically reject this annulment. There is no doubt that the ADOC presidential ticket won the 7 May elections. [applause] ADOC won those elections by a margin of over 42 percent. We are able to prove—tally sheets in hand—that we won, and we will not accept as justification for annulment of the election the regime's own attempts at fraud, which were carried out with the tolerance and complicity of the Electoral Tribunal. That annulment is an unacceptable mockery of the Panamanian people's will.

Second, we reiterate what we have been saying for several weeks and have repeated countless times since 7 May: that in addition to upholding the people's will as expressed on 7 May, Panama needs, in order to resolve its national crisis in peace, an agreement between civilians and the military that maps out the new role to be played by the FDP once the democratic government takes office. Despite the brutal repression to which we were subjected yesterday afternoon, we reaffirm our willingness to carry out as soon as possible a negotiation between civilians and the military. That is indispensable, along with upholding the people's will as expressed on 7 May.

Third, we declare that we will continue the struggle to have the Panamanian people's will respected and to achieve our country's democratization by all the peaceful means at our disposal. We will determine which of those means are the most appropriate according to the occasion and the circumstances. With the caution that the present conditions demand, we will invite our people to join us in whatever forms of struggle we decide upon. We are not going to sit back and do nothing.

Fourth, we urgently call on the democratic governments of Latin America, Europe, and North America to begin a joint large-scale, speedy diplomatic and political effort to help us enforce our people's will and to keep us from sinking further into barbarism and disaster. If it is determined that the OAS is the appropriate organization for this action, we welcome an action through that organization as long as it is a speedy, decisive diplomatic and political effort.

Fifth, we express our heartfelt regret over the deaths caused by the violence unleashed yesterday afternoon by the paramilitary groups or, I should say, the military groups dressed as paramilitary units. We truly regret that people have been wounded, beaten, or mistreated and that an estimated 60 people are still detained. Among them are Louis Martinez, who was our liaison with the media, and Olimpo Saez, who was a candidate for legislator in the recent elections. Those were the points of my formal statement.

I wish to add something. I have said that those incidents were provoked by military personnel dressed as paramilitary groups. I have already testified to what I myself saw yesterday. I saw a group of people dressed in T-shirts labeled Dignity Battalion. However, the T-shirts seemed like uniforms because they were all the same. These people arrived and joined ranks, so to speak, with the uniformed military personnel. The individuals wearing Dignity Battalion T-shirts grouped themselves into a typical military formation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Arias Calderon was asked if ADOC would accept a provisional government to be in force from now until 1 September.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] If a provisional government were to be established for the period between now and 1 September, when the government elected by the Panamanian people is scheduled to take office, we would look at such a proposal very carefully to ensure its authenticity. If, however, a proposal for a provisional government were an effort to rescind the results of the 7 May elections, we would not even consider it.

[Reporter, in English] [Words indistinct] conference with General Noriega [words indistinct]?

[Arias Calderon, in English] To this point, no.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Arias Calderon] Our position has been and remains that an agreement between civilians and the military should focus on establishing the date on which General Noriega would cease to be commander in chief and on his withdrawal before 1 September.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Arias Calderon, in English] We are willing to start conversations to arrive at an agreement with the military as they are.

[Reporter] Will the actions to which you refer, Dr Arias, include a general strike?

[Arias Calderon] All forms of peaceful resistance are feasible.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Arias Calderon] I believe that this was caused by Gen Noriega; it certainly was not caused solely by us.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Arias Calderon, in English] No strategic questions; no foolish answers.

[Reporter] Will there be a [word indistinct] demonstration?

[Arias Calderon] All forms of peaceful resistance are feasible. The day before yesterday you asked us what we would do yesterday, and some of your smiles reflected doubt, but that is normal. You are Cartesians by profession. You were a little doubtful because you thought we were dodging the issue. You had a lot to report yesterday.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Arias Calderon] I was not aware of [Colombian] Foreign Minister Londono's statement. I would have liked very much to have had it in hand. I am sure that he identifies with the Panamanian people's democratic struggle; I would expect nothing less from the foreign minister of a democratic nation. [end recording]

Official Denies Promoting Coup

PA1105231389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2213 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Caracas, 11 May (EFE)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera said today that the report that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has tried to sponsor a coup in Panama, as reported earlier, "is completely false".

Panamanian Government sources accused Perez of trying to stage a coup "to remove the General Staff and to establish a civilian junta friendly to the United States."

Tejera said that the accusation against Perez "is part of the disinformation campaign that General Manuel Antonio Noriega has been mounting for several months in anticipation of his regime's difficulties."

Tejera also said that the Venezuelan Government will ignore this provocation. He pointed out that his government's actions will be channeled through the OAS.

Finally, Tejera said that at the OAS his country will express its opposition to any form of intervention, "because Venezuela is bound by its Constitution to always favor the peoples' self-determination and to oppose the intervention of any one country against another."

Capital Stores Open, Empty

PA1105235389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 2230 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Almost all of the stores in downtown Panama City are open, but they have had few customers because Panamanians are not out on the streets. Public transportation is quite normal, but there are few passengers, and very few privately owned vehicles have been observed. FDP riot police were out on the streets of Panama City this morning with tanks, but they withdrew this afternoon.

The Panamanian people are very angry over the attack perpetrated by FDP-armed civilians against [ADOC] presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and vice presidential candidates Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, who are the president and vice presidents of the Republic of Panama, because they were elected by the Panamanian people on 7 May.

Envoy to Chile on 'Abuses'

PY1205003089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Panamanian Ambassador to Chile Ricardo Moreno has said that both the government and the opposition committed abuses and violations during the annulled election in his country.

Moreno added that the United States is partly responsible for the resulting climate of violence.

Moreno said that the abuse and the violation of the process and thefts of ballot boxes were committed by both sides, seeking to blame the other side. Moreno said everyone knows about the money the United States gave to the opposition before the election, and that days before the election authorities found a considerable number of U.S. radios [equipos] that were to be used to call the population to revolt.

Asked about the government's error of annulling the elections when the opposition was ahead, Moreno said that those results were partial and could not have been projected to represent any final result.

Moreno concluded by saying that another presidential election is not possible in the near future until the two sides meet to dialogue and negotiate.

Bush Troop Decision Rejected

PA1205012389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2316 GMT 11 May 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] Since July 1986, a devastating campaign has been carried out against Panama, its Defense Forces, and its government. This campaign was ordered by the U.S. National Security Council in its April 1986 secret memorandum. Millions of dollars have been spent to bribe newsmen and to set up an apparatus that destroys the reputation of noble, friendly countries.

The Panamanian Government has been in a critical financial position as a result of this campaign, which has included the theft of the Panamanian people's funds in U.S. banks, the theft of income taxes deducted from the wages of Canal Zone workers, the illegal retention of canal tolls, and the disappearance of other sources of Panamanian income. Nevertheless, the Panamanian Government chose to comply with the Constitution and the law by scheduling and holding elections. And, since the Bush administration cannot allow us Panamanians to live and vote in peace and to carry on with our style of free coexistence, in February—after being in the White House for less than a month—Mr Bush approved a budget of $120 million to carry out fraud and to finance the opposition so that bribery could distort the people's will.

After a few days of vote counting, our friend Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, president of the Electoral Tribunal, issued Decree No 58 last night, annulling the elections. There was no alternative. There was such a negative influence on the electoral process; it was totally distorted and altered by Yankee power. And the fraud had been long in the making. This was admitted by John Chancellor in an NBC commentary when he said: How can we talk of fraud in Panama, if we began by committing the fraudulent acts of bribing the opposition, of interfering with the Panamanian media, of threatening them, of subjecting them to psychological warfare by establishing an information center on a military base, and of holding a news conference on a military base? We have violated all the rules, Chancellor said, so how can we even think that any country can carry out its electoral duty under such a climate?

The truth is obvious. This is not understood by those who have lost their ability to think and who allowed themselves to be misled by irrational, emotional positions. These positions are in line with the lackey complex, the complex of people who are subordinate to and dependent on a foreign power. This complex is a part of the spirit and subconsciousness of many people who were born in this fatherland but have not yet even reached the first-grade level of what true Panamanian citizenship means. They were born here, and they always saw Panama as their booty, but they have never taken on responsibilities in defense of the Panamanian flag against U.S. aggression.

A few minutes ago, we heard Mr Bush announcing his decisions. U.S. businessmen will leave the country. They have not paid taxes for more than a year. Some U.S. officials will leave the country. He will send 2,000 more troops. In addition to these 2,000 troops, as a higher-level measure—U.S. officials obviously spend their time deceiving the U.S. public—he will meet with [U.S. Ambassador] Arthur Davis. Davis is an ambassador whom Reagan never received or paid any attention to, but Bush will listen to him—as he listened to Cristiani and Oscar Arias, our other neighbor across the border at Paso Canoas—and will discuss Panama with him. After all, they have invaded this country with spies, and they have electronic information that flows to the White House daily, so what can Davis tell Bush, or Bush tell Davis? That they want to impoverish and destroy this country, as they destroyed Nicaragua, Cuba, and so many others, so that afterward they can decide not to turn over the canal?

The plan continues. Since the United States has 11 years to go until the turnover of the canal, it is in no hurry.

Rebels Ready To Defend Regime

PA1205005989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2345 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Thousands of Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] guerrillas will come and fight alongside the Panamanian people if there is a U.S. invasion or any other military aggression against Panama. The CNG announced this today in Bogota. In addition to sending efficient fighting units to Panama to support its people, the CNG said in its communique that it is on the alert for U.S. attacks anywhere in the continent.

The CNG has 20,000 members and comprises the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Army of National Liberation, the Popular Liberation Army, and the M-19 [19 April Movement]. The CNG calls on all democratic governments and sister countries to be on the alert to mobilize and to take action against this new imperialist aggression.

Vote-Counting Board Comments

PA1205032389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0101 GMT 12 May 89

[Communique issued by the National Vote-Counting Board's Board of Directors in Panama City on 11 May]

[Text] The regrettable incidents that took place in Panama during the 7 May 1989 elections, culminating with the publication of Decree 58 of 10 May 1989 by the TEP declaring the annulment of the elections, have forced us—due to the respect the Panamanian people deserve—to make the following statements:

1. In accordance with Panamanian electoral law, the National Vote-Counting Board, composed of representatives from all the political parties that participated in the elections, met at 1400 on 7 May 1989 at their headquarters for the purpose of receiving and counting the No 1 tally sheets sent by the electoral circuit Vote-Counting Boards, which contained partial results of the presidential and vice presidential returns for candidates legally nominated by their political parties.

2. The legal functions assigned to the National Vote-Counting Board were fulfilled in compliance with all the requirements demanded by law, in the presence and with the direct participation of each and every one of the political party representatives, who acted on behalf of the candidates competing in the elections.

3. Until the moment at which the decree that annulled the elections was announced, the electoral circuit tally sheet returns were counted in the presence of all the board members, including the political party representatives and the observers present. Therefore, the figures reported reflect the exact results of each of the corresponding No 1 tally sheets. The National Vote-Counting Board did not change a single letter or number on the tally sheets.

4. The National Vote-Counting Board was not subject to pressures, despite efforts by some foreign observers to involve themselves in our decisions. The partial results disclosed outside the vote-counting room by national and international organizations created confusion and distrust among the Panamanian people, affected their tranquillity and peace, and caused the regrettable incidents that took place yesterday.

5. We urge the Panamanian people to let wisdom, respect, and patriotic dignity prevail at this difficult time for the fatherland. Today, more than ever, the fatherland needs its childrens' understanding.
[Signed] Diomedes Rosas, president
Alexis Estanziola, first alternate
Dagoberto Lara, second alternate
Diogenes Cedeno Cenci, secretary
Priscilla de Almillategui, second alternate
Victor Levy, TEP member
Amelia de Perez, first alternate
Carlos Bustamante, second alternate

Duque Thanks People for Support

PA1205021889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0110 GMT 12 May 89

["Message to the Panamanian people" from Carlos Duque, presidential candidate of COLINA, issued in Panama City on 11 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The TEP, which represents the people's will, decided on Wednesday to annul the 7 May elections for which my party, the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], had nominated me as its presidential candidate.

More than 80 percent of you, the Panamanian people, responsibly fulfilled your pledge to give me the majority of the votes in the elections. You understood that the elections were the option through which we, as a civilized people, could settle our differences.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Government sought to impose its political option at all costs: Either choose its candidates or no one. In the process we all emerged as losers. Foreign interests should never prevail over national interests.

I thank our electorate, which entrusted me with their confidence. I thank all the COLINA parties, which nominated and supported me throughout my entire political campaign. I likewise thank the thousands of administrative and support personnel throughout the country, who were the foundation of my political effort.

Special thanks to my party, the PRD, which through its leadership, rank and file, and candidates for various posts guaranteed my success in the elections through its combativeness, organization, and Torrijist charisma.

At this difficult time the Panamanian people, as always—of this I have not the slightest doubt—will rise to the occasion. I am sure that once we have studied the path we should take, we will succeed as a country and preserve the nation.

As of this moment I will return to my Torrijist trench to continue guiding the PRD, establishing the path the party Omar Torrijos created should follow, and perfecting our national independence.

I pray to God that peace will prevail in our dear Panama.

A grateful Panamanian who is proud of his origins,
[Signed] Carlos Duque Jaen, president
Panama City, 11 May 1989

PRD Blames U.S. for Annulment

PA1205024689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 12 May 89

["Communique to the country" issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) in Panama City on 11 May—read by Reinaldo Rivera, coordinator of the PRD Secretariat]

[Text] Fellow party members, Panamanian people:

The TEP's declaration of the annulment of the 7 May elections was issued at a time when the PRD and the other members of COLINA were ahead of our opponents in the vote count of 28 of the 40 circuit tally sheets.

The reasons for that declaration lie mostly in the open and barefaced U.S. interference in our electoral process, which led the United States to try to impose its candidates by any means. That strategy was defeated. The time has come to give credit where it is due, study the complexity of the current circumstances, and define the path to be taken to perfect our independence.

The PRD National Directorate is proud of the work done by all our cadres and candidates in the election campaign. The PRD met the goals we had set for ourselves at the beginning of the campaign. All estimates and all statistics show that approximately 70 percent of the votes obtained by our presidential candidate, Carlos Duque Jaen, were won by the PRD. Consequently, the PRD greatly surpassed our expectations. The political militancy, party discipline, and organization of our cadres and candidates throughout the country made those results possible. To all of you, fellow workers and citizens, we extend our respect and thanks.

Our Torrijist people voted for complete tickets on 7 May; in other words, for the presidential candidate, the candidates for first and second vice presidents, all the candidates for legislator and their alternates, all the candidates for corregimiento representative and their alternates, and all the candidates for councilmen and their alternates all over the country.

That action now becomes an incentive and a commitment to seek the solutions that our country demands at this time. Special recognition is due our president and candidate, Carlos Duque Jaen, because in the course of the political campaign, he demonstrated his qualities as a true Torrijist militant by complying with the election platform designed by the party leadership, a platform that was accepted by all our party rank and file.

At this time, the PRD plans, internally, to gather all information on the elections in order to begin, over the next few days, a crucial nationwide assessment of what occurred on 7 May. This way we can adjust all levels of the party as needed to strengthen our political leadership, the party organization, and the integrity and sovereignty of our nation, currently facing the threat of a U.S. invasion.

The party leadership pledges to tour the Torrijist country in the next few days to give all party members the guidance they need to face the present national situation. Similarly, in the next few days the PRD will define, in conjunction with all its cadres in the government apparatus, our political conduct toward the national government.

Finally, we reaffirm our strategic alliance with the armed forces for the achievement of the final objective. Like them, we realize that election tasks are only stepping-stones to the achievement of the strategic objective: national liberation.
Signed: Darinel Espino Zambrano, PRD secretary general
Panama City, 11 May 1989

Dignity Battalion on Opposition

PA1205043889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0341 GMT 12 May 89

[Communique issued by Latin Liberation Battalion—date and place not given]

[Text] Shortly before 1200 on 10 May, an incident occurred when paramilitary personnel at the service of the ADOC suddenly fired weapons, which included .38-caliber revolvers, 9-mm pistols, short-barreled M-10 submachineguns, and sawed-off shotguns, at a contingent of the Latin Liberation Battalion, which is headquartered in the old section of Panama City. It should be noted that the members of the Latin Liberation Battalion had absolutely no firearms when they were treacherously attacked by the henchmen of [ADOC candidates] Endara, Arias, and Ford. As a result of this attack,

Sublieutenant Demetrio Villareal, one of the battalion's instructors, was wounded. This infuriated the masses. Subsequently, Sublieutenant Obstasiano Villarreal, First Corporal Jorge Porras, Policeman Marcos Dominguez, and Rhoda Gray, Ramiro Echevarria Gonzalez, Ascanio Azael Dominguez, and Salvador Ducros, all patriotic members of the Latin Liberation Battalion, were also wounded. In view of this situation, there was a hand-to-hand confrontation between the masses and the armed paramilitary personnel at the service of Endara, Arias, and Ford.

We want to publicly repudiate the distortion of this incident by the media at the service of U.S. imperialism, which have tried to portray the victims from the Latin Liberation Battalion as the aggressors. To do this, they are using edited film clips, showing only what they want the world to see, to achieve their evil goals of spreading disinformation about the Panamanian people.

We call on the people not to be deceived, because it is part of the U.S. establishment's plan to promote such acts of destabilization so as to have an excuse to invade our territory.

We ask the decent peoples of the world to show solidarity with Panama and its cause of liberation.

For Panama, one's life. Not a single step backward.

[Signed] Latin Liberation Battalion

Health Minister on Transition

LD1205090789 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 12 May 89

[Special correspondent Martin Meden report from Panama]

[Excerpts] The Panama Government has added to the list of 12 foreign journalists expelled from the country the names of two Spaniards, Roman Orozco and Enrique Muller, after accusing them of misinforming about events in Panama. [passage omitted]

In exclusive statements to Spanish radio, one of the ministers of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, Health Minister Sanchez Cardenas, said that they do not rule out negotiating a transitional government with the ADOC if they withdraw their demand for General Noriega to abandon command of the Defense Forces:

[Begin Sanchez Cardenas recording] Any political solution has to fall within the framework of a (?context) of national sovereignty, any [words indistinct]. And all those groups who want to take part in this kind of political solution have to realize that we as a government, our party as the main party of government, are certain that for their part the Defense Forces have maintained an appropriate and sovereign attitude to [words indistinct]. Of course, these conditions will include respect by all the participant groups for the observance of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which is the heart of the matter, which is the very crux of the problem we have had with the United States. [end recordng] [passage omitted]

Noriega Papers Cleared for U.S. Authorities

LD1105114489 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1050 GMT 11 May 89

[By John Aston, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Excerpt] The High Court in London today cleared the way for the customs and excise to hand over to US drug enforcement agencies copies of accounts and other private documents belonging to Panama's General Noriega which were seized during a raid on a city bank.

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Brooke freed the customs from a condition imposed by Judge Pearlman at Southwark Crown Court last November preventing disclosure of information of the Noriega family finances to the Americans.

But there will be no immediate hand-over pending announcement by the judges of the full reasons for their decision and a possible appeal by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA [Corporation] to the House of Lords.

The Noriega family accounts were discovered "by accident" in a locked cabinet during a customs swoop on the bank in Leadenhall Street last October.

General Noriega was indicted in the United States in October 1982 and February 1988 on drug-trafficking charges.

A legal spokesman for the customs said later he was "delighted" with the court's decision.

It is expected to strengthen the hand of Britain's drug trafficking investigators and their ability to cooperate in the international battle to track down the drug barons and their worldwide money laundering operations.

Argentina

Caputo Condemns Attack on Panamanian Candidate

PY1105173489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 May (NA)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today termed as "shameful" the beating of Panamanian vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford and described as "very hard" the Argentine Government's statement [not further specified] on this matter.

Caputo said: "I believe that what has happened in Panama is so incredible and unacceptable that the Panamanian officials themselves were forced to cancel the elections. I hope that a new process will start as soon as possible with guarantees for its consolidation."

In remarks to Radio Continental, Caputo said that he presumes that the elections were "disastrous" for the Panamanian Government and that "this is why it has canceled them."

Caputo added that Argentina has sent an observer to Panama. Thus, the Foreign Ministry is not relying on international news agency reports alone. He made it clear, however, that the observer's report has not yet been received.

Finally, Caputo said that "all South American countries will be democratic, for the first time in history, by March 1990.

He added: "I hope Panama will join this democratic process because I believe nothing can be achieved without peace."

Poll: Menem To Defeat Angeloz by 6 Percent

PY1105201489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1723 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] One of Argentina's most famous pollsters today predicted that Justicialist Party presidential candidate Carlos Menem will win next Sunday's elections, although he will not obtain a majority in the electoral college that will elect President Raul Alfonsin's successor.

During a breakfast with foreign correspondents, sociologist Manuel Mora y Araujo said that Menem "will receive the support of 38 percent of the voters, while Radical candidate Eduardo Angeloz will be supported by 32 percent of the voters and rightist candidate Alvaro Alsogaray by 9 percent."

In 1983, the company for which the sociologist works predicted the victory of Radical leader Alfonsin over Peronist Italo Luder.

In 1988, contrary to the results provided by several surveys, the company predicted the victory of Menem over Peronist Party President Antonio Caffiero.

Mora y Araujo said that approximately 45 percent of all votes are needed to win an outright majority in the 600-member electoral college that will designate the new Argentine president in August 1989.

The forecast by Mora y Araujo is similar to the result of a poll that the newspaper CLARIN published 3 days before the elections. The poll said that the Peronist candidate will be supported by 39 percent of the voters while Radical Civic Union presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz will receive 31 percent.

Mora y Araujo said that the military is not a viable option for the vast majority of the people, adding that the left, which is expected to win 1.5 percent of the votes, "also has a very poor image."

"The vast majority of Argentines do not believe that the military is able to solve the current crisis," the sociologist said.

"Only 6 or 7 percent would like [former Army Colonel] Aldo Rico or [former Colonel] Mohamed Ali Seineldin (who, between them, promoted three military rebellions) to become an Argentine Pinochet," he added.

The sociologist said that polls taken over the past year have revealed that the preferences of voters have not changed despite the socioeconomic difficulties of the past few months.

"There are many voters who support Menem because of their emotional involvement. He has the support of the poorest sector, which is absolutely Peronist. He also has the loyalty of unionized workers and the support of 50 percent of the non-unionized workers," he said.

Mora y Araujo said that the Argentine social structure is as diverse as "going from downtown Zurich to the heart of Africa," because 10 percent of the population belongs to the upper class and 15 percent to a very low class.

Government Approves Private Satellite Services

PY1105145989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0321 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (TELAM)—The Executive Branch has authorized the installation and profitable provision of voice and data services for subscribers to communications satellites nationwide.

The decree, which bears no 580/89 and was signed yesterday by President Raul Alfonsin, authorizes the enterprises "Impsat S.A.," "Keydata S.A.," "Industrias Argentinas de Telecomunicaciones ALCATEL S.A.,"

and "Dynamic Systems Communication S.A." to provide these services under Decree No 1842/79, authorizing the participation of private enterprises in the communications sector.

Bolivia

Partial Provincial Election Results Reported

PY1105130689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] The provincial electoral court from La Paz Department yesterday analyzed the records of 176 polling stations; of these 154 were approved, 6 were rejected, and 16 were annulled.

Out of a total of 31,412 valid votes, 6,517 went to the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]; 4,423 to the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement]; 4,113 to CONDEPA [Conscience of the Fatherland]; 4,020 to ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action]; 1,479 to the MRTKL [Tupac Katari Revolutionary Liberation Movement]; 1,752 to the FULKA [United Katarist Liberation Front]; and 2,089 to the IU [United Left Front]. The PS-1 [Socialist Party-1], the FSB [Bolivian Socialist Falange], and the MIN [National Leftist Movement] obtained few votes.

Following yesterday's meeting, Wilfredo Cosa [not further identified] said that 1,020 ballot boxes are already at the domed coliseum, and it is expected that all 1,204 ballot boxes from the 18 provinces of La Paz Department will be received today.

Upon evaluating the vote count that took place yesterday, Cosia said it is believed that the vote count will end within 7 days despite the delay in the counting process. [passage omitted]

The Potosi Electoral Court released the following results this morning based on the results of the vote count in 166 polling stations in the departmental capital and 179 in the provinces: The FSB obtained 474 votes, the MRTKL 732 votes, the FULKA 538 votes, the ADN 16,439, the CONDEPA 1,204, the MIR 15,444, the MIN 726, the PS-1 2,349, the IU 10,310, and the MNR 12,946. Out of a total of 79,971 counted votes, 70,875 were valid, 4,595 were blanks, and 4,461 were annulled.

Percentages of counted votes broken down by party:

FSB:	0.77 percent
MRTKL:	1.20 percent
FULKA:	0.88 percent
ADN:	27.01 percent
CONDEPA:	1.48 percent
MIR:	25.37 percent
MIN:	1.21 percent
PS-1:	3.84 percent
IU:	16.94 percent
MNR:	21.27 percent

According to these figures, the ADN leads with 27.01 percent, the MIR is second with 25.37 percent, the MNR is third with 21.27 percent, the IU is fourth with 16.94 percent, and the PS-1 is fifth with 3.84 percent.

The Potosi Electoral Court will continue with the vote count today until all votes contained in the 576 ballot boxes from the provinces of Potosi Department are counted.

More Election Results Noted

PY1105144489 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 May 89

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The official counting of votes of the polling stations of the 18 La Paz Department provinces is slowly moving forward. The votes of 259 stations have been counted so far. The results of 211 stations were approved, while those of 36 stations were annulled and those of 12 stations were rejected. The total number of valid votes is 34,903. Herewith is the breakdown: 8,808 for the MIR; 5,986 for CONDEPA; 5,900 for the MNR; 5,206 for ADN; 2,665 for the United Left; 2,247 for FULKA; 2,063 for MRTKL; 1,150 for PS-1; 439 for FSB; 438 for MIN.

The total number of valid votes is 34,903, of which 3,055 were blank and 4,039 were annulled.

Dr Wildredo Cosa explained that the results of 36 polling stations were annulled because of irregularities.

[Begin Cosa recording] There are several reasons to annul the results. The basic reason is that the electoral records include the signatures of several persons who are not in the list of overseers submitted to the electoral court. Consequently, electoral records are null and void if they have omissions, changes, missing signatures, or missing identification of overseers. [end recording]

Brazil

Sarney on OAS Meeting on Panama, Initiative

PY1105231089 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Latin American presidents will meet at the OAS to seek a solution to the Panamanian problem. This was reported today by President Sarney, who said that he has received phone calls from the presidents of Venezuela, Mexico, and Argentina on the matter.

President Sarney said he supports the Latin American countries' initiative:

[Begin Sarney recording] Brazil supports this initiative of the Latin American countries to find a peaceful solution to the Panamanian problem. [end recording]

It must be recalled that the Panamanian Government has decided to annul the presidential elections that were held last Sunday, following many charges of electoral fraud. The decree of annulment was read in Panama on the national television and radio network by the authorities of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal.

Itamaraty Reassessing Position in Lebanon

PY1205025089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 May 89 p 21

[Excerpts] Brasilia—The Brazilian Embassy in Lebanon, which is located in the Christian neighborhood of Hazmieh in Beirut, was hit yesterday with seven rockets during violent fighting between the army loyal to General Michel 'Awn—head of the Christian military government—and the Lebanese Army and their Lebanese allies, mostly composed of Muslims. In the face of this new attack on the Brazilian Embassy, Itamaraty is reassessing its position and may transfer it to Biblos, a city near Beirut. There the embassy would establish its office in a hotel. This time the damage was more extensive than the previous attack; communications were cut off, and Charge d' Affairs Alcir Rebello had to send his reports to Brazil from a hotel. [passage omitted]

According to Itamaraty spokesman Ruy Nogueira, the worsening of the situation in Beirut and the conditions for the embassy's operations are prompting Itamaraty to review its position of keeping the Brazilian Embassy in that city. Itamaraty has even chosen the Biblos-sur-Mer Hotel as the new location for the embassy.

According to the ANSA news agency, the Argentine ambassador is the only Latin American ambassador still in Beirut. All the other Latin American ambassadors have evacuated the Lebanese capital, taking refuge in Cyprus or returning to their home countries.

Finance Minister Denies Resignation Rumors

PY1105125589 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Concerning the rumors that he had tendered his resignation, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega denied that he had asked to be removed from his post.

In the finance minister's opinion, this type of report spreads quickly in view of the uncertainty currently prevailing in the economy. He said, however, that these rumors are completely groundless, especially as he is preparing for a trip to the United States on Saturday.

Minister Mailson da Nobrega believes that the rumors have been spread by speculators:

[Begin da Nobrega recording] Some people interested in promoting unrest, some black market speculators interested in increasing their profit margins, are contributing to this atmosphere of uncertainty currently prevailing in the economy. In one way or another, these people are interested in increasing the degree of uncertainty currently prevailing in the economy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sarney To Remain Neutral in Campaign

PY1105143089 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] After dedicating several projects in (Picui), Paraiba State, President Sarney announced that he will not get involved in this year's presidential campaign. He said that he will remain neutral regarding the choice of the future president of the Republic.

[Begin Sarney recording, in progress] ...[words indistinct] participate in the presidential campaign. I am going to follow the campaign, but I am not going to interfere with it.

(?I understand) that it is not good (?to get involved) in those problems. In fact, this is a problem the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] must solve. [end recording]

President Sarney also talked about the strikes. He said that he is concerned about violence, but not about strikes.

Chile

Errazuriz on Panama Violence, 'Intervention'

PY1105181089 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Chilean Government views with concern the climate of violence prevailing in Panama following the presidential elections, as well as the fact that the elections were declared void after numerous irregularities were registered. This was stated by Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, who read a declaration which added: Chile also views with concern some nations' increasing intervention in Panama's domestic affairs.

Foreign Ministry's Valdes Meets PRC Leaders

PY1105145089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ramon Valdes, who is in the PRC, has reviewed the international situation with PRC Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Zhu Qizhen. They agreed that political solutions rather than military confrontations should be sought in international disputes.

The PRC vice minister expressed his interest in strengthening contacts with Latin America, especially during a visit that PRC President Yang Shangkun will make to Latin America.

Valdes and Zhu Qizhen also discussed the development of bilateral relations, Antarctic cooperation, mutual visits, and the future development of the Pacific Ocean basin, an area in which our country has been strengthening its influence.

Caceres Rejects Buchi's Mediation in Talks

PY1105153089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] There is no room for mediation by former Finance Minister Hernan Buchi concerning the resumption of talks between the government and the opposition coalition regarding constitutional reform.

This remark was made by Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, who emphasized that it was the opposition coalition that abruptly broke off talks with the government, making demands the government was not willing to accept.

Concerning the solutions proposed by Buchi to break the deadlock, Caceres said that Buchi's proposal no doubt contains interesting points, including points of agreement between both sides.

Regarding his skepticism about the possibility of resuming the talks, Caceres said that he preferred not to voice moderate optimism or skepticism.

Caceres added that there is a reality and the policies reflect the reality. Thus, the reality is that the opposition coalition abruptly broke off the talks, expressing a disruptive attitude.

The interior minister concluded by saying that the government has been implementing a tolerant, open policy. We believe it is important to be moderate in such an important year as 1989, considering that elections will be held, he said.

Colombia

Foreign Minister Condemns Violence in Panama

PA1105185189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1737 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Consultations continue between the ambassadors and foreign ministers belonging to the Group of Eight—which is definitely becoming the Group of Seven—to evaluate Panama's political crisis. The Colombian Government rejected and censured recent violence and asked that the will of the people be respected.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Antonio Jose Caballero] The Colombian Government today deplored the latest events that have taken place in Panama, especially the annulment of the election process by the Panama Defense Forces, headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The Colombian Government also condemned attacks on Colombian journalists in the last few hours by strongman Noriega's so-called Dobermans in Panama City.

[Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono] We obviously deplore and reject the violence taking place in Panama. Of course, we cannot but express our condemnation and rejection of the growing acts of violence in that country. [end recording]

Ecuador

Government Suspends Citibank Transactions

PA1105200089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1841 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Quito, 11 May (AFP)—Monetary Board President Abelardo Pachano announced today that the Ecuadoran Central Bank and public institutions closed all their accounts and suspended transactions with Citibank of New York, which "unilaterally and unexpectedly broke its commitments" by retaining $80 million Ecuador had deposited in that bank to pay its foreign debt.

Before departing for New York, Pachano said Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez has contacted the U.S. Government "to condemn this reproachable action by a U.S. banking institution." He noted that "in addition, the Ecuadoran Government will undertake all possible legal actions" to defend its rights.

Citibank, along with Lloyds Bank International, is Ecuador's foreign debt agent and a member of the negotiating committee for creditor banks.

Alfarist Deputy Criticizes Government, Economy

PA1105172789 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Alfarist Radical Front Deputy Jaime Aspiazu Seminario said waves of strikes are sweeping the country because there is no government and because there are no fixed goals for the national economy. Aspiazu Seminario categorically said that there is still a lack of production and that the inflation upsurge has gone unchecked, making the poor poorer and the rich richer.

[Begin Aspiazu recording] Ecuador lacks defined economic goals; we continue to suffer from a lack of production, and the peasants continue to be exploited by intermediaries. The only antidote against inflation is production, and there is no production in Ecuador. Loans were granted too late, and businesses are in chaos. [end recording]

Venezuela

Perez Urges 'Latin American Formula' for Panama

PA1205014089 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 89

[Report on news conference by President Carlos Andres Perez with unidentified reporters; date and place not given]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has proposed a Latin American formula to help Panamanians solve the problems arising from the annulment of last Sunday's elections. He deeply regretted the situation in that country. The chief executive refused to comment on reports by an international news agency accusing the Venezuelan Government of promoting a coup against [General Manuel Antonio] Noriega.

[Begin recording] [Perez] I deeply deplore the situation in Panama. It is extremely serious, and the annulment of the elections makes it even worse. That is to say, a definite attempt is being made to counter the will of the Panamanian people, which was clearly expressed when they elected Guillermo Endara as president of Panama. This action brings shame to all Latin Americans, to those of us who were friends of Torrijos, to those who know of Torrijos' certain, definitive, and firm desire to turn Panama into an authentic democracy.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Perez] We are constantly holding consultations, and we are going to ask for a meeting of the OAS Permament Council at the foreign ministers' level.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Perez] We are going to do that.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Perez] Well, I believe Panama is excluded from the Group of Eight—that is, not Panama, but the current Panamanian Government. It is undoubtedly excluded from the Group of Eight.

[Reporter] But [words indistinct] the OAS?

[Perez] Well, we have to discuss that. However, what is important is that we Latin Americans demonstrate solidarity with the Panamanian people, that we protest the repression of the Panamanian people's will, and, at the same time, that we seek a Latin American formula to help Panamanians solve the problem.

[Reporter] Do you think the United States would not be included in that [word indistinct]?

[Perez] (?Pardon me.) The United States is part of the OAS, and it will take part. We are interested in the United States acting within the OAS.

[Reporter] Since you have spoken several times with President....

[Perez, interrupting] Of course. I have had several talks with him, because this is of general concern to all countries in the hemisphere. I have also had frequent talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who, by virtue of his links with Latin America and his fraternal relationship with our people, has also helped to find a solution. [end recording]

Chamber of Deputies Debates Panama Situation

PA1105184189 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1613 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The lower chamber of the Congress of the Republic has debated the current situation of the Panamanian people. The observers who viewed the 7 May elections attended this meeting.

The Panamanian situation unleashed a storm of opinions in the Chamber of Deputies against the attitude of the Panamanian Government. Representatives from the various political parties, some of whom were observers to the elections held in Panama, announced their respective organizatons' views.

[Begin recording] [Social Christian Party Deputy Ramon Guillermo Averedo] The Chamber of Deputies should express its solidarity with the Panamanian people's decision. Evidently, the Panamanians have spoken loudly and clearly. Over 70 percent of the votes are in favor of democracy, for electing Guillermo Endara as president, and condemning the Noriega regime.

[Democratic Action Deputy Luis Emilio Rondon] We believe it is necessary to find an immediate solution to the Panamanian people's serious situation. However, at the same time, we condemn any possibility of unilateral intervention by the United States.

[Unidentied Movement Toward Socialism deputy] We are worried that the United States is trying to exploit this situation to intervene in Panama, disavow the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and even invade Panama. [end recording]

Students Riot in Maracaibo Over Bus Fares

PA1105190089 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0613 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Maracaibo, Venezuela, 10 May (REUTER)—Authorities have reported that 14 youths were detained and 10 policemen injured today during violent student demonstrations in Maracaibo—Venezuela's second largest city—demanding special bus fares for students.

Zulia State Governor Ismael Ordaz informed journalists that students from the University of Zulia burned two buses to protest the local government's delay in implementing a special half-fare for students.

Ordaz had originally promised to implement the special fares on 9 May, but yesterday he announced that the implementation had been postponed until 27 May.

Protests against the increase in bus fares and the price of gasoline led to 3 days of riots and looting in Venezuela in February that left 297 dead and 1,800 injured.

Groups Respond to Union's Call for Strike

PA1205004089 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Democratic Action [AD] Political Secretary Antonio Ledezma has confirmed that his party does not support the strike called by the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV] for 18 May.

[Begin Ledezma recording] AD cannot support the strike. Nevertheless, we view with favor an organization that struggles for the achievements of all Venezuelan workers. We have stressed that CTV President Juan Jose del Pino has always spoken as a CTV spokesman, not as an AD leader. This is why he can act in this special way at this time. [end recording]

On the other hand, the National Social Christian Party [COPEI] Committee decided to support the strike.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We are giving all our support to the strike called by labor groups against the government's economic measures, which have been rightly labeled as a hunger package, and against President Perez, who is imposing these measures despite widespread protests throughout the country. We are giving our support to the workers so that the strike will be successful. [end recording]

The Venezuelan Journalists Association also fully supports the 18 May strike and urged journalists to limit their work on 18 May to only covering the strike.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We took that position because we believe the strike strengthens the democratic system. We believe all professionals—especially journalists—are not exempt from the effects of the socioeconomic crisis. We have ample proof that we are currently losing the socioeconomic gains we achieved through our democratic system. [end recording]

It was reported that 1,000 employees of Venezuelan domestic and international airports will join the strike. Flights on the day of the strike will be limited from 0600 to 1800 to support the strikers.

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